



Making a summer splash

Swimsuits are bright and sexy
Page 16



MODS and ROCKERS

The true Tory split
Leading article
page 21



Grammy PRIZES

16 PAGES OF SPORT

Sampras wins his fifth Wimbledon title

pages 25-26

Test: Stewart leads fightback

page 33



Tories call for ban on Blair adviser



By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Tories have called on the Prime Minister to suspend one of his own policy advisers after allegations that he was planning to use his position in Number 10 to benefit commercial clients of a former colleague.

Michael Ancram, the Tory deputy party chairman, last night wrote to Tony Blair asking him to suspend Roger Liddle, a member of the Downing Street Policy Unit, pending an investigation.

The Tories will also today demand a Commons statement and call for a top-level inquiry after claims that political lobbyists who

were former aides to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, have secured market-sensitive information from the Government and passed it on to their clients.

The Tories seized on a report in yesterday's *Observer* based on taped conversations between journalists posing as representatives of American energy companies and lobbyists.

The report claimed that Derek Draper, a former adviser to Mr Mandelson, and Ben Lucas, a former aide to Jack Straw, had secured advance information on Mr Brown's Mansion House speech last month and his statement on public spending, which they had

passed to their clients. It also alleged that Karl Milner, a former assistant to Mr Brown, had leaked a House of Commons select committee report, which would be a breach of parliamentary privilege.

All three are now earning thousands of pounds a month working for separate lobbying firms, offering their clients access to senior ministers and advance information.

The *Observer* also claims that Mr Liddle had offered to try to arrange meetings for businessmen with key people in the Government, although there is no suggestion that he passed on any government information. Mr Liddle was co-founder of a lobbyist group, *Prima Europe*, which six months ago merged with

GPC, the lobbyists of which Mr Draper is a director. In a statement issued yesterday Mr Liddle said: "As I made clear to *The Observer* yesterday, I have no financial connection with GPC and no interests whatever in the company."

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, suggested that if the allegations were true it would amount to insider dealing and should be referred to the police. The issue should also be investigated by Lord Neill, chairman of The Committee on Standards in Public Life, he said.

But Downing Street called on critics to "put up or shut up", claiming there was no evidence that material had been improperly

passed to lobbyists. They insisted that Mr Blair had more important issues to deal with and that replying to Mr Ancram would be a "low priority".

The political row, which will be embarrassing for the Government, centres on the world of political lobbying, which proved damaging to the Tories in the last Parliament.

Two years ago the lobbying group Ian Greer Associates collapsed over its involvement in the cash-for-questions scandal after it emerged that Mr Greer had paid ministers for soliciting information.

But the Opposition was quick to turn the tables on Mr Blair, who has spent most of the past three years emphasising that in stark contrast

to the Tories his own party is squeaky clean and would not offer favours for financial gain.

The *Observer* quotes extensively claims by Mr Draper that, as a so-called member of the inner circle, he was able to leak crucial financial information. But yesterday Mr Mandelson, his former boss, was said to be "furious" about the comments made by his former protégé, making clear that he had discredited the Government with his exaggerated claims.

"Peter regards these boastful claims as typical Derek Draper hype," said a source close to Mr Mandelson.

The lobbyists, page 2

Doctors to seek guide on 'life or death'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS are demanding guidelines on how to decide when to stop treating seriously ill patients.

Medical advances have given them so many ways of staving off death that they want a clear guide about when they should give up attempts to keep someone alive.

In a discussion paper published yesterday on the eve of its annual conference in Cardiff, the British Medical Association said it was constantly being asked by members if and when they should withdraw or withhold treatment from people who would be unable to live without it.

"Technological developments contribute both to the range of treatment options and to the dilemmas of deciding the most appropriate stage to forgo further active treatment," the paper says. "Advances which save or improve life for many patients can also give rise to conflict and tension if invasive treatments are continued beyond the point where they confer benefit to the individual."

Vivienne Nathenson, head of the BMA's professional sources research group, said: "There is widespread

confusion as to how much a doctor can do. We need clear guidelines of best practice which we can show to the Government and if need be seek changes in legislation so they can be implemented." The issue was especially difficult with seriously ill children. "Some parents feel that if a treatment is available they are prepared to have it even if it is not past the experimental stage." The report says that for desperate parents to expose fatally ill children to all manner of painful, unproven or essentially futile treatments breaches a child's right to be free from intrusion.

The paper notes that some clinicians seem more willing to impose greater burdens on children with fewer chances of success than on adults. "Children should not be subjected to unproven or very risky treatments which have not first been tried on consenting adults," it suggests.

The paper says it is a common misconception that next of kin are best placed to provide consent for treatment for anyone who is incapacitated. "The importance of recognising that the person who is emotionally closest to the patient may not be a family member" has to be borne in mind by a doctor seeking guidance from the sick person's acquaintances.

Dr Nathenson said that legal considerations added to a doctor's difficulties. Sometimes the doctor and the patient might both agree that it was in the best interests of all concerned for treatment to stop but then the case would have to be taken to court. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, yesterday extended an NHS helpline, which offers 24-hour advice, to cover 10 million people. He made the announcement during a tour of Trafford Hospital in Manchester, where the NHS was launched 50 years ago.

Johnny Speight, the show's scriptwriter and a life-long socialist, died yesterday at his home in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire. He was 78 and had been suffering from cancer of the pancreas.

His creation, Alf Garnett,



Swept along on a wave of pop: some of yesterday's 100,000 fans who joined Prince Charles in Hyde Park for the biggest party of the year

Prince of pop has eyes on the Saints

By ALEX O'CONNELL

THE Prince of Wales joined more than 100,000 pop fans yesterday for the biggest party of the year.

Party in The Park, the Prince's Trust show, sponsored by Capital Radio, was made up of 18 acts who performed for a mostly pre-teen audience. The Prince, flanked by David Duchovny, *The X-Files* star, and singer Lionel Richie, tapped his feet to the girl group All Saints. During their number one hit *Never Ever*, he went so far as to borrow binoculars from a member of the audience.

To the audience's disappointment Prince Charles was not accompanied by Prince William or Prince Harry but, after making his way to the Royal Box to watch the show, the crowd sang *Happy Birthday* to the Prince who will be 50 later this year.

The Prince's Trust is expected to receive up to £500,000 from the concert.

Park life, page 3

Peace in peril as Loyalists march

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND AUDREY MAGEE

NORTHERN Ireland was braced for widespread civil disorder last night after security forces blocked the biggest Drumcree parade in its 191-year history and hundreds of angry Orangemen embarked on a stand-off that could last for weeks.

Orange Order leaders appealed for peaceful protests only but security chiefs feared that extremists on both sides would try to foment violence and disruption on a scale that could wreck the Province's fragile peace. "There are indications of people on both sides being prepared for violence," said a security source.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary seized large caches of petrol bombs on loyalist estates in Londonderry and Carrickfergus, and there were disturbances in Lisburn and parts of Belfast. But security sources feared that mayhem would begin once the Sabbath

ended. The 1996 Drumcree parade sparked a similar stand-off, and after three days of public disorder that virtually paralysed the Province the police let the marchers through. The RUC is determined that should not happen again. Nearly 28,000 troops and police are ready to keep roads, ports and other key installations open, and hundreds of troops are on stand-by in Britain.

Political leaders appealed for calm, and Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC's Chief Constable, said: "Don't let others hijack the protest for more sinister and malevolent ends." As many as 6,000 Orangemen joined the annual parade from Portadown to the Drumcree church but were prevented from returning by the predominantly nationalist Garvaghy Road.

Loyalists at bay, page 4

Businessmen fear onset of recession

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THREE surveys have revealed a slump in economic confidence among Britain's businessmen, fuelling fears that recession is looming. The Institute of Directors, the Centre for Economic and Business Research and the London Chamber of Commerce have all found evidence of a growing pessimism.

Tim Melville-Ross, director general of the IoD, said yesterday that businessmen were becoming increasingly depressed by the impact of the financial crisis in South-East Asia and successive rises in interest rates. He told GMTV's *Sunday* programme: "The degree of the fall in optimism about the state of the economy generally is quite marked."

He said that a further interest rate rise by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee later this week would be "perverse in the

extreme" as they were already too high. He urged the committee to "listen to what business people are saying... and recognise that we have got some quite severe recessionary pressures building up".

The Centre for Economic and Business Research's survey forecasts an economic slump in 1999. Douglas McWilliams, its chief executive, said: "The introduction of the minimum wage from April 1999 and rising pressures on public sector pay are threatening to add to wage-inflation pressures at just the wrong moment."

The London Chamber of Commerce's quarterly survey reveals that service sector exports have fallen to the lowest level since 1991, and 81 per cent of businessmen want a weaker pound to revive exports.

City divided, page 48

Vintage Moment
Vintage Clicquot

Veuve Clicquot
CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

Alf Garnett's creator Johnny Speight dies

By ROBIN YOUNG

DEATH has parted us from the creator of *Till Death Do Part*, the television comedy series that made a popular laughing stock of a working class bigot and a star of the Prime Minister's father-in-law.

Johnny Speight, the show's scriptwriter and a life-long socialist, died yesterday at his home in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire. He was 78 and had been suffering from cancer of the pancreas.

His creation, Alf Garnett,

played by Warren Mitchell, became the model of outspoken political incorrectness, deprecating his suburban brethren, berating his long-suffering wife as a "silly old moo" and generally displaying all the worst, most narrow-minded and reactionary attitudes of working class Toryism. His "idle layabout" but Labour-supporting son-in-law was played by Tony Booth, father of Tony Blair's wife, Cherie.

Mr Speight was revered in showbusiness circles for the breathtaking daring of his

scripts which made *Till Death Do Part*, first screened in 1964, one of the best remembered of all situation comedy series. It was initiated abroad, in America with the creation of the Barker family, and Mr Speight scripted a sequel, *In Sickness and in Health*.

Mr Speight, who grew up the son of a dock worker in east London, and Tony Booth were close friends and drinking partners.

Francis Speight, 38, a golf professional and Mr Speight's second son, said of

his father: "He died peacefully at around 8.30am. We were all there. It was a very sad moment."

Paul Jackson, the BBC's controller of entertainment, said: "There are very few writers who can claim to have created a character who embodied a spirit of a generation. Johnny Speight did this with Alf Garnett."

Warren Mitchell was too upset to talk at length. "Johnny was a very dear friend of mine," he said.

Obituary, page 23



Speight: he was revered for his daring scripts

TV & RADIO	46, 47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24, 48
LETTERS	21
OBITUARIES	23
W. REES MOGG	20
ARTS	18, 19
CHESS & BRIDGE	38
COURT & SOCIAL	22
BUSINESS	43-46, 48
FASHION	16
LAW REPORT	41

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How Labour lobbyists won friends and promised to influence people

Dominic Kennedy looks at the amazing claims made by political insiders to show their prowess

THE world of lobbying, like any other business, is prone to people making exaggerated claims to attract custom. When *The Observer* dangled the prospect of two American clients before the new Labour insider Derek Draper, he may have been eager to promise rather more than he can deliver.

In remarkable exchanges with an investigator from the newspaper, Mr Draper, a director of lobbyists GPC Market Access, claimed that he passed inside information about Gordon Brown's spending plans, announced on June 11, to an American bank a week earlier. The details could have been worth a fortune to an insider trader.

Mr Draper, who earns £250 an hour, also insisted that he could provide influence for his clients. He claimed to have found a seat for a leading businessman on the Government's *Welfare to Work* task force, one of the plethora of bodies helping to create new Labour policy.

Mr Draper said he also took a house builders' leader to meet Geoff Norris, a member of the Prime Minister's policy unit, in the Downing Street dining room.

With breathtaking indiscretion, the lobbyist claimed that his weekly column in *The Express*, "Inside the Mind of New Labour", was vetted by Peter Mandelson, the Minister Without Portfolio and his former boss. On Saturday, the columnist devoted most of his space to a eulogy on Mr Mandelson's social exclusion unit.

The future of this useful platform looks in doubt. *The Express* said yesterday: "We do not employ columnists who have their words vetted by Peter Mandelson or indeed anyone else."

Mr Draper was trapped by

the investigator pretending to represent clients from the American energy industry, who wanted to seek exemptions from pollution restrictions.

The lobbyist said he would go straight to Number 10, to Liz Lloyd, "one of my best friends", who had been put in charge of environment on the Downing Street Public Policy Unit by Tony Blair. Mr Draper said he would introduce his clients to "Policy World — the little world of business people and politicians", and steer them away from those outside this circle.

That meant avoiding Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, dismissed as a "weak, irrelevant nobody", and the Department of Trade and Industry's Margaret Beckett and her junior, John Battle, both described as "useless".

At a champagne party hosted by Mr Draper's lobbying firm, the investigator was introduced to Roger Liddle of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, formerly managing director of Mr Draper's consultancy.

Mr Liddle said: "There is a circle and Derek is part of the circle. And anyone who says he isn't is an enemy." Asked if Mr Draper could introduce his potential clients to policymakers, Mr Liddle handed over a card saying: "Whenever you are ready, just tell me what you want, who you want to meet and Derek and I will make the call for you." There is no suggestion that Mr Liddle has passed on any government information.

The investigator approached other lobbyists formerly working for Labour. Karl Milner, an adviser to Gordon Brown before the election but now a lobbyist with GJW Government Relations, faxed a Commons Select Committee report to America a day before publication, in breach of privilege.

Ben Lucas, a former Blair aide who is now a lobbyist, said he knew in advance that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would announce a new housing inspectorate in a speech on June 11. He had delivered the information to a client beforehand and advised him how to capitalize on it.

Charlie Whelan, Gordon Brown's spokesman, said it was "a lie" that the Chancellor's speech could have been leaked as he had not finished writing it.



Derek Draper, left, with Neil Kinnock and John Prescott at celebrations on the night of Labour's election victory

NEWS IN BRIEF

Revenue casts doubt on Brown's tax plan

Gordon Brown has been told by the Inland Revenue that a key part of his Budget is likely to prove unworkable. The gloomy advice to the Chancellor is contained in a confidential paper drawn up by Inland Revenue officials studying implementation of the £5 billion Working Families Tax Credit, intended to give all families with one parent in a job a minimum income of £180 a week.

The scheme was unveiled by Mr Brown in March and hailed as a vital tool in his crusade to make work pay and help an extra 400,000 low-paid families. However, the Inland Revenue study has now cast serious doubt on the practicality of the change, due to come into effect in April 2000. The new tax credit was to be paid through a simple change to an employee's PAYE tax code, to spare employers the administrative burden of calculating payments, but the Inland Revenue found that using the PAYE system to calculate tax credits produced errors after as little as six weeks.

Royal Train for hire

Buckingham Palace has announced that the Royal Train is available for hire, as part of the Royal Family's efficiency drive. The armoured-plated locomotives, apartments, dining car and carriages were used by Queen Elizabeth II to entertain leaders at the G7 summit in Birmingham, and the Royal Household, which has assumed responsibility for its own travel arrangements, hopes it will be used by other suitable clients. Government departments are the most likely users.

Kidnap reward offer

The President of Chechnya, Aslan Maskhadov, offered a £60,000 reward for information on the whereabouts of two British charity workers. The weekend marked the first anniversary of the kidnap of Camilla Carr and Jon James, who were working for a Quaker charity, the Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development. Their families met a Foreign Office representative to demand that Britain exert more pressure for their release. Tony Blair has already promised to do all that he could.

Boy, 11, found dead

Dominic McKilligan, 18, will appear in court today charged with murder after the body of a boy who had been missing for a month was found in remote countryside. Wesley Neale, 11, left of Newcastle upon Tyne, disappeared on June 5, apparently after a row with his family. Police immediately searched for him, but did not arrest Mr McKilligan until last Wednesday.

NHS helpline extended

A 24-hour NHS helpline offering medical advice is to be extended outside pilot areas to cover 10 million people. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, announced. He said that £14 million would be spent from last March's Budget NHS allocation to take NHS Direct into areas including Manchester, Birmingham and Cornwall. Mr Dobson was speaking at Trafford Hospital, Manchester, where he met Sylvia Diggory, who was the first patient to be treated on the NHS in 1948.

Boy revived after crash

Paramedics saved the life of Michael Taylor, ten, of Broughy Ferry, Dundee, after he smashed into the side of a powerboat as he played on a jet-ski at a Scottish Grand Prix speedboat race on the River Tay. His father, who was riding a separate jet-ski, held the head of his son above the water until a rescue vessel arrived. He had no pulse but paramedics on the quayside, watched by a crowd that included Michael's mother, managed to revive him. Last night, he was in a serious but stable condition.

Snowdon sale plea

Snowdonia's local MP called for the National Trust to buy part of Mount Snowdon and surrounding farmland after an announcement that the estate was up for sale after 14 generations in the same family. Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarfon, said that he would write to the National Trust urging it to consider the £2 million purchase. He was said that Richard Williams had decided to sell the 4,000-acre estate. Mr Williams said his decision had caused him "much heartache".

Oyster beds threatened

Oyster farmers in Whitstable hope to escape a threat to their stocks after thousands of gallons of sewage leaked into the sea off north Kent. The sewage had swept into a brook after a pump failed at Southern Water Services' Swalecliffe station, two miles from the beds. Last night, farmers and water officials said the crisis — spotted by a passer-by — had reduced as concentrated effluent was being diluted at sea. However, environmentalists said sewage would kill anything with which it came into contact.

The twists and turns of the insiders' insiders

UNTIL he opens his mouth and lets loose a string of northern vowels, Derek Draper appears to be every inch the impeccable new Labour smoothie.

A machine politician, "Dolly" Draper earned his spurs by becoming a hate figure in campus politics, outmanoeuvring left-wingers to deliver the Labour students' organisation to the moderate Kinnochies.

In opposition, he became Peter Mandelson's assistant. In 1996, in a foreword to Mr Mandelson and Roger Liddle's *The Blair Revolution: Can New Labour Deliver?*, the authors said they both owed a special debt to Mr Draper, who had been closely involved with the project from the start.

He is supposed to have fallen out with Downing Street over his entertaining book about Tony Blair's first 100 days.

He was among the first to spot the potential of working as an adviser for new Labour and then using his knowledge and contacts. He left Mr Mandelson to become a lobbyist.

Mr Draper adores attention and loves the high life. He is typically to be seen downing champagne with media folk in fashionable London clubs and meeting places.

Roger Liddle entered poli-

Canadian company, Mr Liddle, a heavy-jowled intellectual, has a reputation as careful and shrewd. A grammar school boy from Carlisle, he went to Oxford in the 1960s. He lives with his wife, Caroline, who works for the BBC, and their young son in Kennington, southeast London.

Another veteran of the Labour student movement, Karl Milner became an aide to Gordon Brown after training to be a teacher. Now pushing 30, married and with two children, he has a fashionable South Yorkshire accent.

He worked in Hillary Clinton's advance team for Bill Clinton's successful 1992 presidential election campaign.

For three years until the 1997 election, Mr Milner worked for Mr Brown, helping to build his power base by taking responsibility for the printed material mailed by the Shadow Chancellor to MPs and Labour supporters. He helped to organise Mr Brown's visits. A kind, well-liked figure and pop music enthusiast, he moved to GJW Government Relations, a respected lobbying firm, after Labour came to power.

Charlie Whelan, Mr Brown's spokesman, joked at the mention of Mr Milner's name and that he might have worked the photocopy.

Lottery fatten

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CSA reforms to hit fathers' pockets

By Jill Sherman
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HARRIET HARMAN will announce reforms to the Child Support Agency today to force all absent fathers to pay maintenance for their children.

Absent parents will have to pay a percentage of their income, up to 25 per cent of their take-home pay. There will be no right of appeal, except in exceptional circumstances. Some parents' organisations will oppose the formula on the ground that a large proportion of fathers will have to pay more while 30 per cent of mothers are expected to be worse off.

Speaking on GMTV's *Sunday* programme the Social Security Secretary said that the reforms would ensure that the Child Support Agency had tougher enforcement procedures. "It is quite a shocking fact that there are 1.8 million

children in this country in respect of which the father pays not one penny," said Ms Harman. "He simply leaves it to the mother to provide for those children or to other taxpayers."

At present the Child Support Agency spends 90 per cent of its time processing claims and appeals and only 10 per cent chasing absent fathers. As a result, a third of fathers are paying nothing and the CSA, which is owed more than £1 billion, has a backlog of nearly 500,000 cases.

"I think that part of the reason people don't pay is the complexity of the system, but part of the reason people don't pay is that the system's not enforced," said Ms Harman.

Today's White Paper is expected to outline a formula under which parents will have to pay 15 per cent for the first child and 5 per cent for each subsequent child, up to a maximum of 25 per cent.

Where the absent father has started a new family, a certain allowance will be made for his second family. Where a father has started a third family, the first two families will have to share the maintenance allowance, in proportion to the number of children in each family.

Mothers on benefit are also expected to be able to keep some of their maintenance, about £10, rather than having it all deducted from their income support.

Plans floated by the Lord Chancellor's Department for a 50-50 split of the property and finance of divorcing couples could be unfair to women and children, the professional body for solicitors says.

At present, the courts have discretion to judge each case on its merits. The Law Society says that an equal split would ignore the needs of women and children, particularly in poorer families where the home is the only asset.

Blair's office denies tension with Brown

REPORTS of renewed tension between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, were dismissed by the Prime Minister's office yesterday (Jill Sherman writes).

The intervention by Mr Blair's official spokesman coincided with growing pressure on the Prime Minister to bring forward the Cabinet reshuffle due at the end of this month. It is now possible it will take place as early as mid-July, after the completion of the Government's comprehensive spending review.

Mr Blair is said to be infuriated by continued speculation about whether the reshuffle will boost Mr Brown's allies or his own. The main gossip centres on the future role of Peter Mandelson, who had been tipped as the chief of a new beefed-up Cabinet department, to rival Mr Brown's power base at the Treasury.

Yesterday there was speculation that Mr Mandelson would, instead, be given his own Whitehall department, possibly to replace Chris Smith at Culture, Media and Sport. The Minister without Portfolio is known to want his own department, and already has interests in that area, with his responsibility for the Millennium Dome.

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Prince joins families for a taste of pop in the park

Outdoor music festivals have changed since the Stones in 69 reports Nigel Williamson

FOR those of a certain age being in Hyde Park with the Prince of Wales for a rock concert is a disconcerting experience.

Twenty-nine years ago to the day — on July 5, 1969 — 250,000 of us sat in the sunshine and listened to the Rolling Stones playing in the park for free. Yesterday's 100,000 spectator event, the largest concert in Hyde Park since that day, featured 18 bands also playing for free but similarities ended there.

In 69 Mick Jagger wore a white Ossie Clark dress as he read Shelley's *Adonais* as a tribute to Brian Jones, who had died two days earlier, and released thousands of butterflies over the heads of the crowd before the band cranked into *Honky Tonk Women*, *Jumpin' Jack Flash* and *Sympathy for the Devil*.

My memories of that day are sitting on the grass in tie-dyed vests with my school friends, drinking cheap wine, a haze of dope smoke drifting through the trees, some menacing looking Hell's Angels in the crowd and some even more threatening skinheads on the periphery in boots and braces preying on any stray hippy who became separated from the flock. There was a sense of danger, a spirit of hope and a feeling that we were part of an irresistible movement that was going to usher in a brave new world.

Yesterday thousands of young girls in skimpy tops and hot pants, blowing whistles and sucking ice poles dragged their long suffering parents along to pay £15 a head to listen to what amounted to an extended outdoor edition of *Top of the Pops* or a giant junior disco. With several other music festivals



Tie-dyed vests, cheap wine and dope lent a sense of danger to the park in 1969

cancelled this summer because of poor ticket sales — including Phoenix and Jam In The Park — the organisers, the Prince's Trust and Capital Radio, were delighted to have sold out.

The 21-year-old Prince was not among us 29 years ago. It was the week of his investiture as Prince of Wales at Caernarvon Castle in full regalia and amid great pomp. The two events seemed to symbolise what were then conflicting worlds. The ceremony represented an old establishment hidebound by convention and tradition, while the Stones concert was a summit meeting of the rock'n'roll counter-culture that was going to sweep away the old order for ever. It was the summer of Woodstock.

The film *Easy Rider* had just opened, John and Yoko were singing *Give Peace a Chance* and Jagger and his girlfriend Marianne Faithfull were on bail for a marijuana bust.

Rock and royalty were about as far apart as you could get and if you had told us that three decades on the Prince of Wales would be hosting his own pop concert in the park the idea would have seemed as zany as a *Monty Python* sketch.

Yesterday the Prince arrived flanked by David Duchovny, of *The X-Files*, and Lionel Richie. He was buttoned up in a grey suit and light blue shirt with cufflinks. Of the three, he was the only one not wearing shades.

He was there in time to hear All Saints, but there was

some disappointment that his sons were not with him — Prince William is said to be a big fan of the all-girl group.

No act was allowed to play for more than 20 minutes. The Irish band The Corrs, currently No.1 in the album chart with *Talk On Corners*, flew in on a chartered plane from Sweden, played three songs and flew straight back to Denmark for a concert last night.

The largest screams of the day greeted Boyzone, who, dressed in long black frock coats, played a selection of their greatest hits. Parents accompanying their children gave wry smiles at the fact that two of the boy band's biggest hits — *Words* and *Father And Son* — are covers of songs that are now almost



Julian Lennon, left, and Ronan Keating of Boyzone, who got the biggest cheer

30 years old. Other performers included Natalie Imbruglia, who performed her monster hit *Torn with panache*; Julian Lennon, who managed a couple of songs before technical problems prompted an early departure from the stage and Shania Twain, the American country singer who has achieved crossover chart success.

But the performance of the day came from All Saints, who are Melanie Blatt 21, Shaznay Lewis 21, and sisters Nicky and Natalie Appleton, 22 and 24.

Ms Blatt proudly displayed a pregnant stomach beneath a short, skimpy top, but still moved in sassy style on their two huge hits *I Know Where It's At* and *Never Ever*.

Many of yesterday's crowd were not even born when the Stones played the park. Melanie Badham, 36, a north London schoolteacher, was one of the few who remembered the Stones concert. "My mum and dad took me when I was about seven. They were real old hippies. I don't remember much about it except running about and everybody blowing bubbles."

"My daughter who is 12 wanted to come to see Boyzone and so I brought her, but it isn't really the same is it?"

Another who nearly remembered was Bernard Docherty of LD Publicity who handled PR for the concert. "Actually I missed the Stones but I was there at the first free concert a few weeks before for Eric Clapton and Blind Faith. I remember they were awful and I lay out and got sunburn on the soles of my feet and had to hobble home to Chelmsford. This is much more popastic."

Indeed it was. Yesterday there was no danger and little adventure. The drug dealers, usually prevalent at pop festivals, were noticeable only by their absence. Coca Cola vendors were doing much brisker business.

These days pop music is simply part of the entertainment business. Perhaps it always was. Of course rock'n'roll never changed the world. The difference is that today it doesn't even try.



Shania Twain belts out one of her hits at the sold-out Prince's Trust concert

Egypt detains British tourist who got lost

By Stephen Farrell and Michael Binyon

A NURSE who strayed across the border into Egypt while walking in hills near an Israeli holiday resort was being held by Egyptian border guards last night.

Jerry Bowdren, 33, from Norwich, was reported missing by friends when he failed to return to his hotel in Eilat from a walk in countryside around the Red Sea town on Friday. Embassies in Egypt and Israel were last night trying to establish the whereabouts of Mr Bowdren, who is believed to hold British and Irish passports.

The borders of Egypt, Israel and Jordan converge at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba, a strategically sensitive area. The three countries agreed to boost cross-border tourism as a main plank of the Israeli peace agreements with its neighbours, and many tourists now cross at the authorised crossing point.

However, the stalemate in the overall peace process has soured relations. Desert borders are not always clearly marked and, amid frequent accusations of espionage and terrorism, are extremely sensitive to unauthorised incursions.

A spokeswoman for the

Irish Government said last night that Mr Bowdren was believed to have been travelling on an Irish passport, but that his family were originally from Britain.

She said: "We believe he crossed the border and was detained because he was not carrying his passport. There was a lot of speculation by the Egyptians about why he was wandering around but the official message we have had is that he simply got lost. We are hoping he will be released soon."



Jerry Bowdren, who strayed across border

Girl, 16, died after hospital sent her home

By Stephen Farrell

A HOSPITAL that allegedly sent home a teenage girl suffering from a ruptured stomach vein is to hold an investigation into her death.

Emma Tucker, 16, died from internal haemorrhaging less than 24 hours after her family claim that staff at the Frenchay Hospital in Bristol diagnosed a stomach bug and told her to put up with the pain.

Her mother Carol, 39, from Kingswood, Bristol, said: "We put our trust in the hospital and we were let down. When they told us she had gastric flu, we thought Emma would be all right in a few days."

"She actually said, 'It's killing me' before we took her to hospital — it is as if she knew more than the trained medical staff."

Miss Tucker first complained after waking up in pain in the early hours of June 25. She was taken to the Frenchay Hospital by her father Alan, 46, who claims that staff took tests and sent his daughter home two hours later, chiding him for not calling out the family's GP instead.

Mr Tucker, a window fitter, said last night: "The staff just did not seem interested in

treating her. They took a blood test and just gave her an injection before saying she would be OK."

"When Emma was told she could go, she looked at the nurses and said, 'I am in agony' but they just dismissed her and said, 'You have a stomach bug, you will have to let it hurt for a while. It will be all right.'"

"It just keeps going through my mind that if these people had done a proper job, Emma would be here today."

At home Miss Tucker continued to complain of severe pains and her parents left her older brother Jamie to look after her while they went to work.

Several hours later, Jamie telephoned his mother to say he had found her unconscious and called an ambulance. By the time the family reached the hospital, she was dead.

A spokeswoman for Frenchay Hospital said yesterday: "Frenchay Healthcare Trust offers its deepest sympathy to Emma's family. The matter will be thoroughly investigated."

"We cannot say any more than that because we do not know if an inquest is to be held."

Lottery fattens guinea-pigs for menu

By Robin Young

A CHARITY has won nearly £300,000 of National Lottery money to breed giant guinea-pigs in Peru. The animals will be destined to improve the diet of subsistence farmers in the Peruvian Andes.

The cash is being given to the Cusichaca Trust, which is based at the village of Belbroughton in Hereford and Worcester, and which is run by Ann Kendall.

Dr Kendall, an archaeologist, has been awarded £295,000 from the lottery's Charities Board, plus a grant from the British Government, towards the £572,000 *Pampachiri* project, which is intended to relieve poverty in the mountainous Peruvian regions of Ayacucho and Apurimac. Guinea-pigs are a cul-

nary delicacy in Peru, where they are used for roasting and stewing in a similar manner to how pork or chicken might be prepared in this country.

But normal-sized guinea-pigs provide only a small meal. Dr Kendall's charity is planning to breed larger strains and so to provide greater sustenance for the Peruvian people, much as selective breeding improved agricultural livestock in Britain during the agricultural revolution.

Dr Kendall said: "We want to improve the quality of their guinea-pigs. We aim to introduce cross-breeding to make them bigger and better to eat. The aim of the project is to help these people at grassroots level."

"We feel we can do that by reintroducing traditional agricultural methods that have been lost over the generations. We

are extremely grateful to the lottery for the money, which has helped us enormously."

A spokesman for the National Lottery Charities Board said: "This is a very worthwhile project and the trust put in a good bid."

"It will help some of the world's poorest people."

Julie Kirkbride, the Conservative MP whose Bromsgrove constituency includes Belbroughton, said: "I am not against overseas grants in principle and I applaud anyone in my constituency who has been fortunate enough to receive one from the National Lottery."

"But I would hope that the award would not count against any domestic bids from Bromsgrove for money from the National Lottery."

Salvatore Ferragamo

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When loyalists confronted the Crown

The Portadown Orangemen, aghast at the army operation blocking their path, said they would uphold their liberties. Martin Fletcher reports

THE moment of supreme symbolism when God-and-Country Ulstermen confronted the forces of the Crown and launched themselves on a course with untold potential for disaster occurred yesterday at 12.51pm.

Leaders of the Orange Order, some of whom are former soldiers, emerged from the annual service at Drumcree's hilltop church to commemorate forefathers killed at the Battle of the Somme. In bowler hats and orange sashes, preceded by three colleagues carrying ceremonial swords and a tasseled banner, they marched solemnly down the lane leading towards Portadown as the cheers of fellow Orangemen drowned the beat of a single drum.

After 100 yards they ran into the front line one of the biggest military operations seen in Northern Ireland in 30 years of conflict.

Earthmovers had transformed a stream into a moat with high earthworks. Beyond, three fearsome walls of coiled barbed wire stretched far across the fields. There were floodlights and surveillance cameras, a distant row of black-suited riot police with shields and helmets, ranks of armoured Land Rovers, even a small field hospital.

The expanse of impenetrable no man's land served two purposes. It established that the only way the Orangemen would ever reach the predominantly nationalist Garvaghy Road from which they had been banned was through civil disobedience on such a scale that the politicians would have to think again. It was also a means of avoiding television pictures of British soldiers and policemen grappling with the Queen's most loyal subjects to protect a community that most of Northern Ireland's Protestants believe to be full of rampant republicans.

The Orange Order's leaders got as far as the bridge that crossed the stream. Their way was blocked by a barbed-wire barricade backed by a wall of military-green steel and two cargo containers filled with concrete. They stood in silence for a few moments, before one loudly demanded that a senior officer present himself to receive a letter of protest.

No one appeared. "I would like to say to Her Majesty's Government that this is a total disgrace, stopping British subjects from walking the Queen's highway with barbed wire," Harold Gracey, Portadown's District Master, announced to the journalists pressed around him. "We are taxpayers, British subjects and loyal to the Crown. We will be here until such time as we can lawfully walk into Portadown." And thus the stand-off began.

Two hours earlier the scene had been almost festive as the parade set off for Drumcree from the centre of Portadown as it had every year since 1807. Bands played. The street was awash with flags and bunting, and packed with cheering women and children. The 1,300 local Orangemen were joined by thousands more from across the Province and even Scotland came to lend support.

Twenty minutes later the mood changed as the mile-long parade passed the top of the Garvaghy Road which was bedecked in Irish tricolours. The bands stopped playing. A nationalist crowd roared its defiance from across a military cordon made up of slate-grey Land Rovers, green



Orangemen peer through rolls of barbed wire close to Drumcree church yesterday. A huge military operation prevented them from marching through the Garvaghy Road

Saxon armoured personnel carriers and more walls of coiled barbed wire. As the parade approached Drumcree's church the tension gave way to hurt and anger at the scale of the military preparations to prevent them returning by their traditional route. "What the hell's that?" exclaimed one in disgust.

The church, built in 1856, holds only a few hundred. The service was relayed by loudspeaker to the thousands in the surrounding lane and fields. They sang hymns. They recited the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. The rector urged his flock to put their trust in God at this dangerous time. The service finished with every man standing rigid for the National Anthem. The military preparations

were on such a scale that it would have cost the Government less to have flown the nationalist population of Portadown first-class to Spain for the weekend. They were made necessary by the Order's determination to march down half-a-mile of roadway, and the nationalists' refusal to countenance a march that would have passed in less than 15 minutes. But there was no doubting the depth of the Orangemen's convictions.

"I would give my life for this," said Clifford Forbes, a 58-year-old factory worker with a wife and children as the stand-off began. "This is my tradition and culture and who has the right to take that away from me? This is our forefathers who died at the

Political leaders stay away

By AUDREY MAGEE



Trimble close contact

DAVID TRIMBLE, First Minister of Northern Ireland, stayed away from Drumcree yesterday but was constantly updated about developments by Ulster Unionist party members. Seamus Mallon, the Deputy Prime Minister, also stayed away but was in touch with events at Drumcree on the nationalist side through Brid Rodgers, SDLP assembly member for Portadown, who spent most of yesterday on Garvaghy Road.

Ian Paisley, the DUP leader, visited Protestants in Garvaghy Road on Saturday and saw barricades erected by police around Drumcree church. Yesterday he held a service at Loughgall, Co Armagh, in commemoration of the Orange Order, which was founded in the village in 1795. Last night he attended his regular church in Belfast. He said that his Portadown visit had been made as an MEP and that he was particularly concerned at the way Protestants had been hemmed into an enclave at the end of Garvaghy Road.



A soldier patrolling Portadown yesterday

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Montgomery had to fight for proper rate for postwar job

British officials were miserly over his peacekeeping role, records reveal. Valerie Elliott reports

HE WAS the military hero of his generation, the man known as "the first soldier of Europe". But in 1948, when Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein was appointed chairman of the commanders-in-chief of the Western Union — the starting point of Nato — the Government was reluctant to pay him enough for the job.

The French, by comparison, offered him the use of the Château de Courances near Fontainebleau to go with his role of securing the future security of Western Europe.

Details of the wrangling over his pay and expenses has emerged in new papers deposited at the Public Record Office in Kew.

Senior government officials clearly feared there would be outrage if the public came to know about their miserly attitude to the distinguished soldier, and they originally ordered that the file should remain closed until 2033. But under the Government's initiative to speed up the release of old documents, the buff-coloured file on Montgomery is now available to the public.

A letter from Montgomery, then aged 61, to Sir Eric

Speed, then Permanent Under-Secretary at the War Office, sets out his concerns. In it he said: "The President of France is handing over to me his own château at Champs; it is the local Chequers. I shall have to entertain on a fairly large scale and on a high level. France is an expensive place these days and the cost of living is very high. I shall also have an HQ in London. And I will be constantly on the move round the capitals of the Western Union countries. I am not a rich man by any means and I lost all my possessions during the war by enemy bombing."

He asked to be paid the £4,800 a year he was receiving as Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS), the usual London lodging allowance, a responsibility allowance of £2,000 (doubled from his £1,000 as CIGS) and £2,000 untaxed entertainment allowance (up from the £150 a year).

He pleaded: "I submit that the immense responsibilities of the job warrant the above salary, and indeed I doubt if that will prove to be sufficient if I am not to be out of pocket which I cannot afford to be."

10 Downing Street, Whitehall.
11 February, 1948.

My dear Field Marshal,

I have read your letter of January 27 and your suggestion about the Château de Courances.

I accept your recommendation that if the offer is made you should accept it. The financial implications of your acceptance will be a matter for the War Office, since the expenditure involved will be borne upon those Votes. I suggest therefore that as soon as is convenient you should arrange to submit the question to the War Office through official channels. The War Office will also doubtless send you representatives to discuss themselves of the position and will recommend to you how the Château may be entertained without financial loss to yourself.

Yours sincerely
(Sgd) G.R. Atlee.

Field Marshal the Viscount Montgomery of Alamein,
20, Grosvenor Gardens.

Atlee finally agrees to the £2,000 allowance

At a time of postwar austerity, however, senior mandarins turned down the requested £2,000 entertainment allowance. They did not have the procedures to make such "unaccountable" payments and considered Montgomery's CIGS post a superior one as he was responsible for the defence of the realm. In Europe he was merely an adviser.

Instead Sir Eric, after correspondence with Sir Edward Bridges, Treasury Permanent Secretary, offered £750 a-year expenses and a promise that it could be reviewed.

The French offer of the château was clearly a tricky

ical hot potato. The Government did not wish to upset the French but they were reluctant to part with the cash. For though the French were happy to offer the accommodation they did not include furnishings and contents.

In the end ministers agreed to take on the costs of the château as Montgomery's military base. A letter from Albert (later Earl) Alexander, the Defence Secretary, to Emmanuel Shirwell, Minister at the War Office, said: "We must not offend the French in this matter even though it costs us money to be gracious."

Atlee accepted the advice and wrote to Montgomery: "I accept your recommendation that if the offer is made you should accept it." He also promised that the War Office would ensure that "the château may be maintained without financial loss to yourself".

Montgomery finally retired in 1958 after being Deputy Supreme Commander of Nato forces. But he was not a rich man and at the end of his glorious military career he could afford to buy only a ramshackle water-mill in Hampshire.

Even then the Government showed meanness towards him and would not permit him to receive raw timber as building supplies. The timber eventually came from Montgomery's friends in New Zealand and Australia.



Montgomery in 1957, on his 70th birthday, in a photograph by Stanley Devon

Queen's wedding caused a diplomatic dilemma

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE marriage of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1947 posed a dilemma over the duty to be paid on wedding gifts from the colonies, government papers disclose.

Colonial territories had been secretly advised by telegram that all wedding presents sent to the Princess from abroad would be free of duty and purchase tax. Officials had failed to anticipate that some colonial countries would send the raw materials to Britain to be made up into gifts here.

The Gold Coast sent a ton of mahogany to be made into furniture "to designs furnished by Her Royal Highness"; the Windward Islands sent mahogany for a wardrobe; Northern Provinces of Nigeria sent leopard skins to be made into a fur coat; Grenada sent a pearl to be mounted in platinum as a brooch; and Uganda sent

wood to make a sideboard and dining table for the newly-weds. Duty would still be liable on such gifts — but who should pay it?

The first Colonial Office, Customs and Excise and the Treasury knew of the difficulty came in January 1948 when a London firm making an 18 carat gold and silver casket from raw materials sent by Fiji asked if it could be delivered without payment of purchase tax.

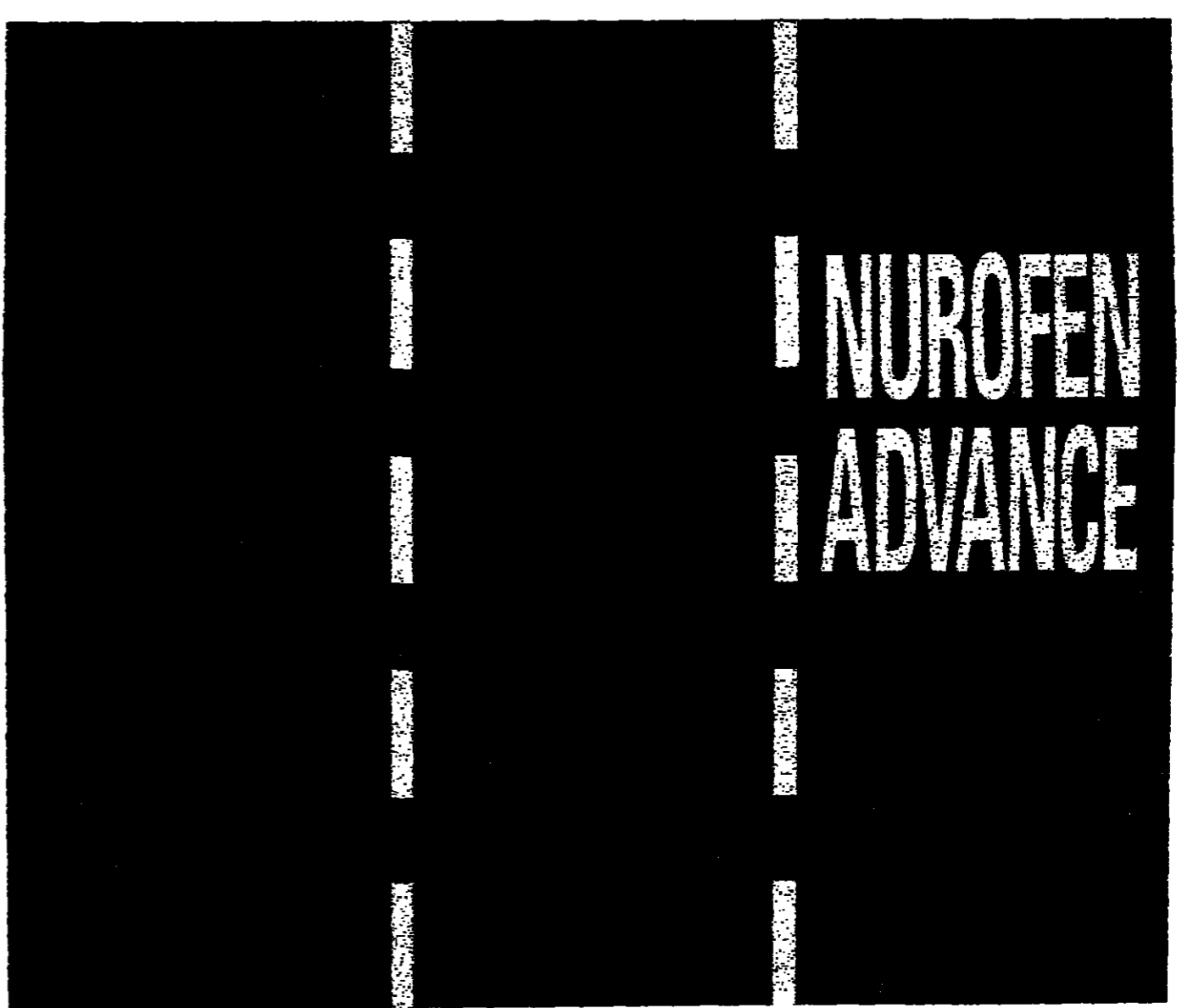
A note from the Colonial Office on January 31, 1948, released at the Public Record Office in Kew, said that as the casket had been manufactured in this country, "by law" purchase tax had to be paid if it was delivered direct to Princess Elizabeth. The only way that tax could be avoided was for the casket to be exported again, a move that could have led to diplomatic embarrassment.

Two weeks later the Treas-

ury came up with the ingenious idea that a representative of Fiji in London should be found and asked to pay the purchase tax which would then be reimbursed by Customs and Excise. A Customs and Excise official wrote on February 17, 1948: "This rather roundabout way of giving exemption is I am afraid unavoidable. . . I need hardly say that no publicity whatever should be given to the fact that this concession is being made."

The exemption for the six colonies eventually cost British taxpayers about £24,000 at today's prices.

The Colonial Office simply went to the Crown Agent in London who agreed to act as Fiji's representative — as he did for Nyasaland, which had sent leopard skins and blue monkey skins that were being "dressed and made up into a motor rug" by a London furrier.



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NATIONAL

Green group destroys genetically altered crop

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING biotechnology company said yesterday it was considering prosecuting green activists who ripped up a trial plot of genetically modified crops at the weekend.

The attack took place at Watlington, Oxfordshire, two days before the opening today of the Royal Show, Britain's premier agricultural showcase. An exhibit outlining the potential benefits of genetic engineering for farming is one of the main features this year at the show, which is held every July at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire.

Five women belonging to a new group, genetiX snowball, tore up 200 oilseed rape plants owned by Monsanto, the multinational American company. The plants had been genetically altered to make them resistant to a broad-spectrum herbicide, which would enable farmers to kill grass and weeds without damaging their crop. The women were arrested by police but later released.

Colin Merritt, Monsanto's product manager in Britain, said: "We are still awaiting a

COUNTRY SONG FROM MARCHERS

Rural dwellers have launched a campaign song of the countryside that they hope will enter the pop charts. *Guardians of the Land* will go on sale on July 27 with the support of Countryside Alliance and other groups that organised the march through London by 250,000 people on March 1.

The singer is George Bowyer, 33, an insurance broker who took part in the march. He said: "It sums up the feeling and frustrations that I and many other country people have when we are attacked by those who still don't understand the issues involved in country life."

The refrain of the song runs: "We know the glory of the countryside/The glory of the beasts there that swim and run and fly/It's us who preserve the woodlands, the rivers and the hills/And if they'll only let us, we always will."

Janet George, who helped to organise the march, said: "If only a quarter of the people who went on the march were to buy the single we could hit number one."

full report on the incident, and when we have it we will decide whether to prosecute for criminal damages."

The women said they wanted to start a campaign of non-violent "civil responsibility" against the genetic engineering of food. One of them, Rowan Tilly, a solicitor from Oxford, said: "I hope my actions will encourage ordinary people to join with us to take responsibility for stopping this technology from destroying our environment

and endangering our food and health."

There have been more than 20 attacks on trial crop sites during the past three months throughout England and Scotland by secretive bands of "eco-warriors" raiding plots under cover of dark. The new group announced its intentions openly in advance and sent letters to scores of farmers providing land for such trials with a warning that they could be targeted in future raids. They want a five-year morato-

rium on the release of genetically modified crops into the environment pending the results of further research into their safety.

Charles Runge, chief executive of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, which stages the Royal Show, said the attacks would not promote sensible debate about genetic engineering. "We have to decide as Europeans whether we want to remain internationally competitive food producers," he said. "If we do we are going to have to embrace these new technologies."

Visitors to the show, which will be opened by the Duke of Edinburgh, will be able to see a display of genetically modified wheat implanted with extra gluten genes to improve its bread-making quality. There is also an exhibit showing how genetic modification could create plants resistant to nematode worms, which cause up to £60 billion of crop losses around the world every year.

Organisers expect up to 200,000 people at the show during the four days, of which about 60,000 are likely to be farmers and their families. Livestock entries include 2,000 sheep and 1,500 cattle.



Maurice West, a bee keeper, tending to his charges in readiness for the opening of the Royal Show today

Barbour closes factories as exports dry up

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE weatherwear company that keeps rain off royalty is to close two of its factories and make up to 83 employees redundant. It is a familiar story in the luxury clothing industry, which has been hurt by a strong pound and financial crisis in important Asian markets.

J Barbour and Sons, which has three royal warrants for its waxed jackets and coats, announced yesterday that it is to shut its factory on the Royal Industrial Estate in Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, with the loss of up to 45 jobs. The building is likely to be retained as a warehouse and distribution centre.

Another 38 redundancies will follow the closure of the company's plant in Newcastle in the Scottish Borders. The firm blames the strong pound and falling export orders for its difficulties, which resemble those already revealed by competitors such as Burberry, Mulberry and Dawson International. Burberry, whose classic raincoats lost some sales to Barbour, announced recently that it would shut two factories

with the loss of up to 750 jobs. A spokesman said at the time: "We are a luxury goods company, and like all luxury goods companies we have a very large market in Asia."

Mulberry reckoned to have lost £2.4 million sales in the first half of its trading year because of the effects of the strong pound and the financial turmoil in Asia. It has closed one factory and now expects to make losses this year, having accumulated debts of £7 million.

Dawson International, manufacturers of Pringle of Scotland knitwear, has also just announced the closure of two factories, with the loss of 720 jobs.

A spokesman for Barbour said redundancies were being kept to a minimum and that help would be provided with redeployment.

He added: "The company remains committed to UK manufacture on Tyneside and the Borders and to building sales both for its traditional products and new products currently being developed in markets both at home and overseas."

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Tiny Brain.



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Exactly what part of the gorgeous Ms Campbell's body holds the most allure for people? Her legs? Her eyes? Her lips? Her breasts? Perhaps her brain? No, it's unquestionably her right hand. In which can be seen the Olympus Mju II.

In fact, Naomi herself fell so much in love with the Mju II (lucky camera, we say)

that for a whole year it became her constant and devilishly attractive companion as she travelled the globe modelling, meeting the great and the good and generally making the world a more beautiful place.

The photographs she took during this time can soon be seen in a forthcoming exhibition. These surprising, often funny and

sometimes moving pictures naturally owe a lot to Naomi's eye. In addition, they owe a lot to the technology that helped make the Mju II the European compact camera of the year '98.

Unlike many comparable compacts, it has a far superior 35mm F2.8 lens. It also has the all important anti-red-eye flash, a

unique weatherproof construction and it's as small as its £99 price tag. Finally, as you'd expect, it comes complete with auto load, auto rewind, auto exposure and auto focus.

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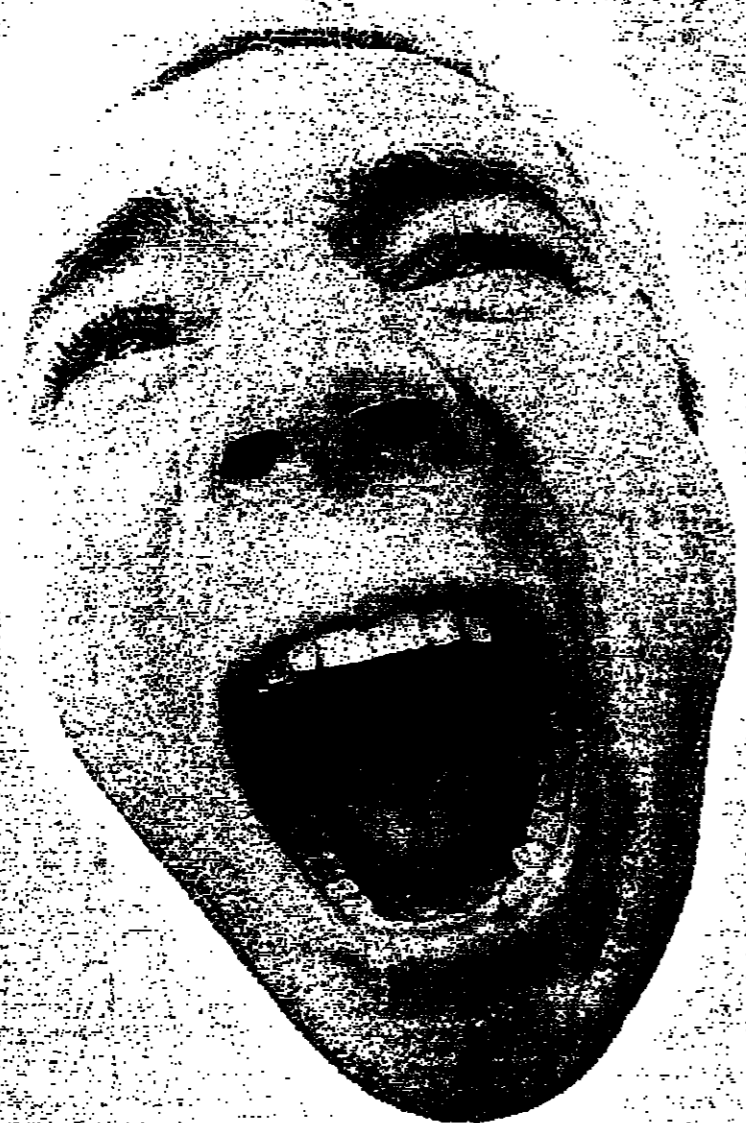
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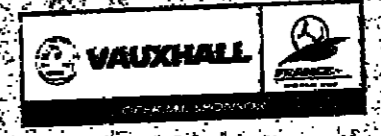
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Carey calls for prayers to remember Diana

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury called yesterday for prayers to mark the anniversary of the death of the Princess of Wales, despite a warning from his fellow archbishop over the "cult of Diana".

Dr David Hope, the Archbishop of York, said yesterday that the country was in danger of "clinging too much to the icon of Diana". His unease found support among many bishops gathered yesterday for the Church of England's General Synod.

But Dr George Carey appeared anxious to ensure that the Church was not seen as out of touch with the mood of the nation, or dismissive of feelings of grief.

A statement by him issued at the synod, meeting at York, said: "The churches will want to discourage any temptation to stimulate emotion deliberately, but it is surely right to thank God for the Princess of Wales's compassion and the hope she brought to so many needy people, and to pray for His blessing on her sons."

Dr Hope, in an interview in yesterday's *Sunday Times*, attacked the museum dedicated to the Princess and opened by Earl Spencer, her brother, at his Althorp estate. The archbishop said it was "the last thing she would have wanted".

Dr Hope, who was knighted

CHANGE TO LORD'S PRAYER REJECTED

The General Synod has been saved from the temptation of introducing a new version of the Lord's Prayer into its authorised prayer book. It threw out a version of the Lord's Prayer that substitutes "save us from the time of trial" for "lead us not into temptation". There was dismay when the synod attempted last November to introduce a modern-language text, drawn up by the English Liturgical Language Consultation, to the Church's liturgy. It was argued that the word "trial" was a more accurate translation of the Greek than "temptation", and that God would not "lead" a person into temptation in any case.

The modern version was to have appeared in the service book being drawn up to replace the 1980 *Alternative Service Book* in 2000. But now the Church is likely to keep the traditional version. Dr David Hope, the Archbishop of York, said familiarity with a known version of the Lord's Prayer was a legitimate consideration.

by the Queen three years ago, was reflecting growing concern in church circles about the response to the death of the Princess by the nation and by members of her family. He said he was concerned at the cult growing up around her memory, and made special reference to the temple shrine dedicated to the Princess at Althorp, which includes a silhouette of her head.

"We should be careful that she is not worshipped. That worship should be directed to the God who created her. He wants golden hearts and golden minds rather than golden temples," he said.

Dr Hope questioned whether the Princess would have wanted to be remembered in

such a way. "We need to begin to move on, and part of that moving on is the letting go. It is hard to do this with a constant stream of photographs of her every day. We need to beware of clinging to the icon. There is some element of wallowing in her death."

Dr Carey's message was directed to the clergy of the Canterbury diocese but is likely to be heeded by other bishops and clergy. Dr Carey said: "It is inevitable that the thoughts of many members of the public on and around August 31, 1998, will turn to the Princess of Wales, who died on that day a year ago, and to her family."

"Each local church will wish

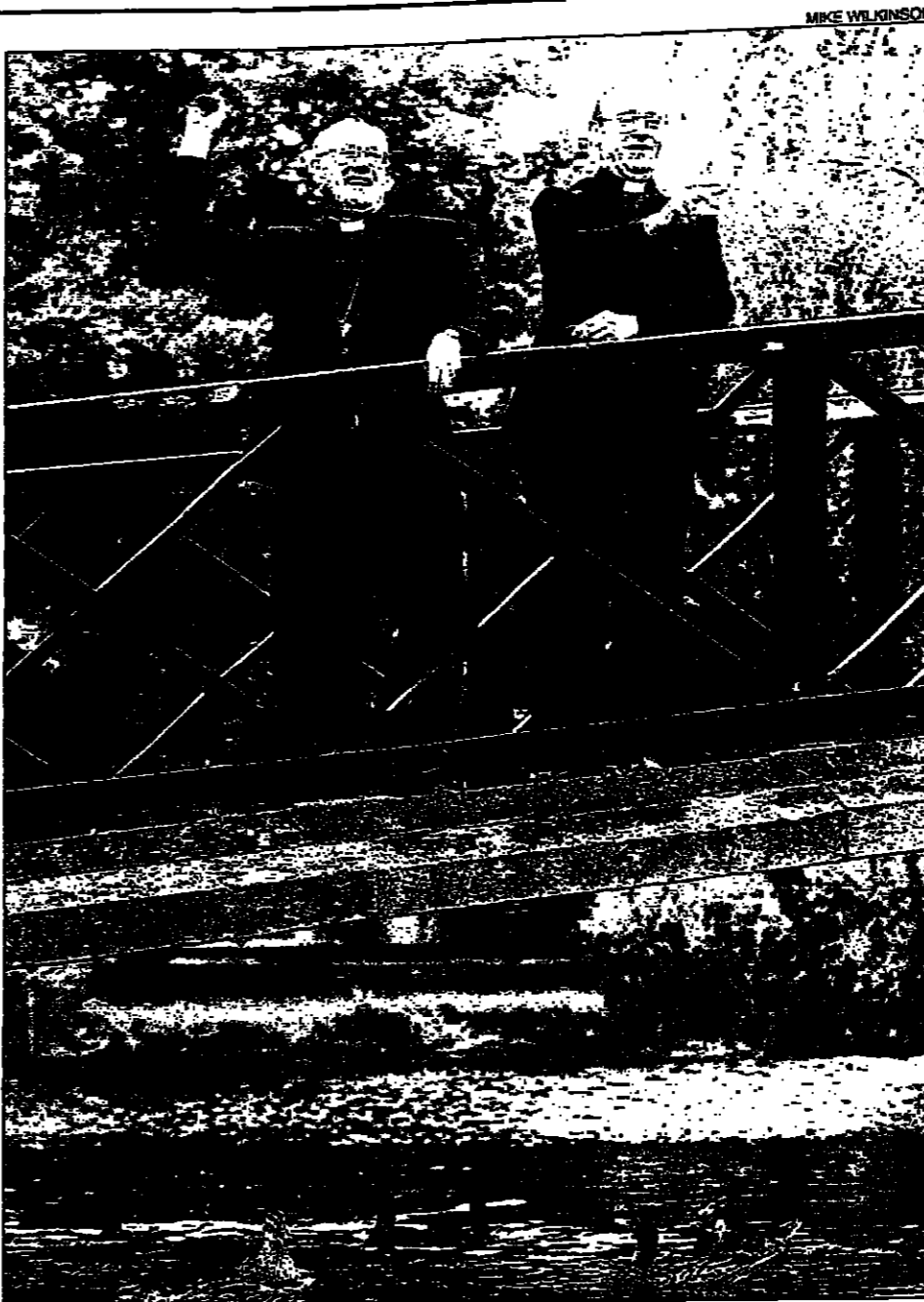
to consider how best to include appropriate prayers in its intercessions on Sunday, August 30, and how it may be accessible to any who may spontaneously turn to the churches as places of prayer and reflection."

He suggested that churches "may find it helpful" to use the prayers he said at the Princess's funeral service at Westminster Abbey, or that they might prefer to "find their own way of integrating these important concerns in their prayers".

His message refers to separate prayers for the Princess to be included in the intercessions. He did not refer to the prayers for the Queen or the Royal Family, which are a set part of the Church of England liturgy.

Nearly two years ago, in November 1996, the Queen issued a royal warrant removing the Princess's name from the prayers for the Royal Family in Church of England services. This restored the prayers in the 1980 *Alternative Service Book* to their form before the marriage of the Princess in 1981.

A spokeswoman for Dr Carey said that the archbishops were not divided in their views. Nevertheless, Dr Carey, who is staying with Dr Hope at Bishopthorpe Palace, near York, for the four-day synod, was offering a markedly different perspective from his colleague's.



Dr George Carey and Dr David Hope feeding ducks yesterday at York University

Computer at home provides advantage at school

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

HOME computers are widening the educational gap between children from rich and poor families, even at A level, a study claims.

Concerns have been raised previously about the advantages enjoyed by GCSE candidates with access to home computers because of the emphasis on coursework. But a report by academics at Cardiff University suggests the divide continues throughout school careers.

More than two thirds of 16 to 19-year-olds were found to have a computer at home and four fifths were using them at least once a week. One in five of those surveyed said they used the computer on a daily basis, mainly for word-processing or games.

Neil Selwyn, who has carried out a three-year study into the use of information and communication technology (ICT) by teenagers, said computer owners enjoyed significant advantages in school. They were more likely to make use of their school's facilities and were able to compensate where school provision was inadequate.

Dr Selwyn said: "I think this is becoming a problem at all ages. It is often ignored in the sixth form because work done in school doesn't count towards A-level grades. But it affects students' whole approach to their work and ICT is one of the core skills that the Government is promoting."

A head of department quoted in the study said his school felt it could not match some of the facilities available to pupils at home. "They were basically saying we should leave IT learning to the home."

The research showed that boys made more use of home computers than girls, although there was little difference between the sexes in access. Boys remained more confident than girls about the use of ICT.

However, Stephen Heppell, of Anglia Polytechnic University, an expert on educational computing, said the gender gap was closing and the ownership of computers was no longer entirely dictated by wealth. "There is a much more egalitarian spread of computers at home than ever there was of encyclopaedias. We find more of a correlation with satellite dishes and there isn't the socio-economic skewing one might have expected."

Improving pupils' ICT skills is one of the Government's computing priorities. Inspection reports have highlighted the differences in levels of expertise both among pupils and teachers.

Repairmen killed by oilrig blast

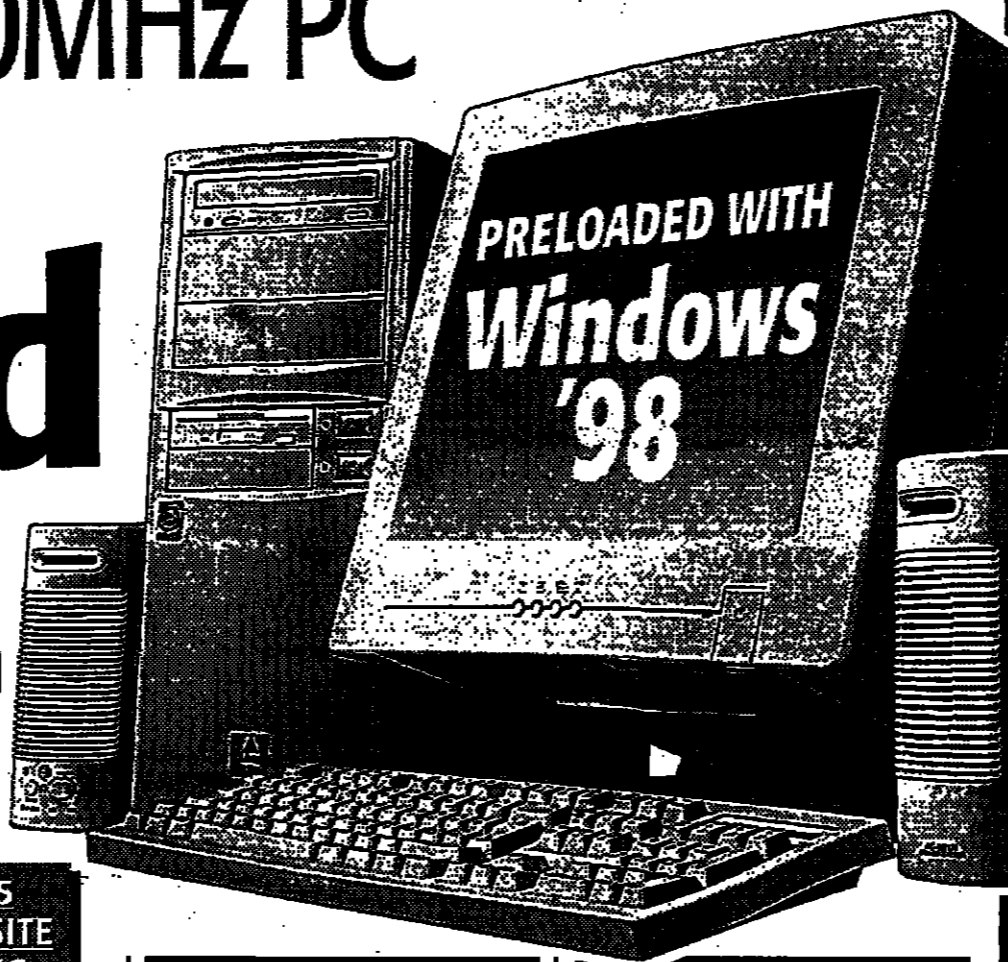
TWO workmen were killed in an explosion after fire broke out on an oilrig under repair in Dundee harbour.

The men, who have not yet been named, were understood to be aged 56 and 40 and to be from the Tyne and Wear area. They were carrying out welding work in a confined space at the foot of one of the Arctic 4 drilling rig's giant legs while it was berthed in Prince Charles Wharf.

Police said: "There was a fire followed by a small explosion and smoke was seen coming out of the base of the leg." Fire crews had to climb down a series of ladders and through manhole covers inside the leg to reach the scene of the fire, which was quickly extinguished.

The body of one man was recovered shortly before midnight on Saturday and the second an hour later. The rig, owned by Global Marine, had been in Dundee for about a week for welding and repairing work. Police forensic scientists were at the scene of the accident.

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WIDE DOGS. THE EYES OF THE

Computer at home provides advantage at school

Computer enlisted in Michelangelo sculpture mystery

BY PETER FOSTER

ART historians have turned to computer technology to solve the mystery of why Michelangelo smashed the sculpture he carved as a monument for his own tomb.

The Florentine *Pieta*, which depicts the broken body of Christ in the arms of the Virgin Mary, Nicodemus and Mary Magdalene, was carved by Michelangelo from a solid block of marble. The great sculptor of the Italian High Renaissance was in his seventies.

The work was instantly admired by contemporaries in Rome such as Ascanio Condivi, author of *The Life of Michelangelo*, who wrote in 1553: "It is impossible to speak of its beauty and its sorrow, of the grieving and sad faces of them all, especially of the afflicted Mother. Let it suffice: I tell you it is a rare thing and one of the most laborious works that he has yet done."

Two years after this praise was heaped upon the *Pieta*, Michelangelo took a hammer and mutilated the work, breaking off both arms and the left leg of Christ, the left arm of the Virgin and the right arm of Mary Magdalene.

The shattered group was partially restored by a little-known sculptor, Tiberio Calcagni, who died before the work could be completed. Today, the repaired sculpture, which sits in Museo dell'Opera del Duomo in Florence, is still missing Christ's leg.

Michelangelo's actions have perplexed artists and historians for centuries. One school of thought argues that it was because the marble was flawed; another that Michelangelo was dissatisfied with the work; and a third that the ageing sculptor flew into a rage after being pressured to finish the statue by his studio administrator.

Jack Wasserman, an American art historian, has enlisted the services of IBM in the search for more concrete answers. Using a six-lens camera to take 700 overlapping digital photographs, computer



The reconstructed *Pieta* in the cathedral museum

scientists will create an exact 3-D, virtual-reality replica of the *Pieta* from almost two billion bits of data.

Professor Wasserman hopes that the computer-generated model will enable him to investigate the statue in ways not possible before. Speaking at a conference in Florence last week to announce the project, he said: "What we want to do is to 'remove' the parts that Calcagni replaced so we can see the block as Michelangelo saw it the day he broke it up. This might give me a better sense of why he did it."

Professor Wasserman admits he is nursing a revolutionary theory on this aspect of the statue, but says that he will not part with his secret until the research is concluded, probably by the middle of next year. He hinted that his theory centres on technical flaws in the sculpture.

"I personally do not believe that Michelangelo broke the sculpture because he was in a rage," he said. "I think it was more dissatisfaction. Looking at the Virgin's face, we can already see evidence of *pentimenti*, or corrections, where Michelangelo tried to carve out the side of her cheek to give the face more natural proportions."

Another aspect that has puzzled academics is the varying proportions of the figures when viewed from ground

level: Mary Magdalene is very small compared to Nicodemus, while Christ's right arm appears extremely elongated. "Michelangelo had a tendency to carve his work so the viewer could see it as he walked in an arc-like trajectory from one side of the statue to the other," Professor Wasserman said. "Using the computer model may give us a clue as to what height and angle Michelangelo intended the statue to be viewed from."

The technology used in the creation of the *Pieta* model is expected to have a variety of applications in the art world. Digitized copies of the world's great sculptures and paintings will become an invaluable educational resource, according to strategists at IBM. Beyond the world of high art, the 3-D modelling techniques that now take thousands of hours may yet become commonplace. "The 3-D cam-corder could be a reality within ten years," an IBM official predicted.



Dancers of the Sri Lankan Channa-Upuli ensemble at the Bradford Festival Mela, the Asian arts event that attracted 150,000 people at the weekend



One of the computer-enhanced photographs, showing the heads of Christ and the Virgin

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Pallid Hague returns to the political grind

WILLIAM HAGUE, the absentee Conservative leader, resumed his duties yesterday with a little light hand-shaking.

Still bearing a pale, almost jaundiced pallor after two weeks in bed and an emergency operation on his sinuses, Mr Hague got back on the political treadmill with a visit to the hospital where the surgery was carried out last week to express his thanks.

"I'm not 100 per cent fit yet," he confided as he arrived with his wife, Ffion, at Darlington Memorial Hospital in Co Durham. "However, I am a great deal better than I was the last time I arrived here, last Thursday."

Mr Hague, 37, picks up speed today with a speech at Buxton in Derbyshire and a series of visits in the Macclesfield area of Cheshire. He returns to London tonight and will be in the Commons tomorrow.

Yesterday there were no outward signs of the operation to clear his blocked sinuses and Rory Bremner, the impressionist, will be pleased to note that the surgery has not

Tory leader shrugs off suggestions that stress delayed his return from illness. Paul Wilkinson reports

affected the Tory leader's distinctive flat Yorkshire vowels — more a product of his Rotherham roots than the resonances of his nasal cavities, experts say.

Mr Hague shrugged off observations that he had set the unfortunate record of being off sick for longer than any other leader of his party since Winston Churchill suffered a stroke in 1953. "There's no accounting for illness, even politicians get sick," he said.

He also dismissed rumours circulating in the Westminster hot-house that his ailment has been made worse by the effects of stress caused by reports of his poor performances as Tory leader and stirrings of mutiny in his party. "I'm not affected by stress, anyway. No, it was pretty awful. I can only assume that if people are saying things like that, they have

never suffered this condition. I would not wish sinusitis on anybody."

Mr Hague first suffered flu-like symptoms two weeks ago, forcing him to cancel a series of appearances intended to mark his first anniversary as party leader. "It just went downhill from there," he said. His temperature soared to 103F and severe pain from his blocked sinuses prevented him sleeping. At one stage aides reported that the pain was so bad he was unable to think.

Then last week he was admitted to hospital in Darlington, about 15 miles from his home in his Richmond constituency in North Yorkshire. Ear, nose and throat specialists operated to clear his inflamed nasal passages after they had failed to respond to antibiotics.

Mrs Hague, who had

cleared her diary to nurse her husband, said: "It was pretty scary at first; he was obviously not his usual self, but he was sensible and listened to the doctors. He was a good patient; it was easy to look after him."

Yesterday he returned to ward 34 where he had recovered after surgery, bearing flowers, a 2lb box of mixed-centre chocolates and a thank-you card for staff. On the ward Staff Nurse Anne Foster, 52, who had admitted him for his operation, was on duty again.

"He was a model patient," she said. "He gave us no bother at all and he received no more attention than any other NHS patient."

Mr Hague said he had not thought about private treatment. "I and my family have always used the NHS and will continue to do so. I did not jump any queues to get in; it was a medical emergency and the treatment was excellent."

However, he took the opportunity on the fiftieth anniversary of the National Health Service to deliver a few words on how Labour had "totally failed" on its election promise



Mr Hague and his wife, Ffion, at Darlington Memorial Hospital yesterday, which he visited to thank staff

to cut waiting lists. Unfortunately most of the beds in the ward were unoccupied and he did not stay long enough to meet any patients.

He was only slightly more successful with a visit to the

department, where he found just one patient, 14-year-old Paul Roland, nursing a broken arm suffered in a fall.

Then after a brief visit to X-ray where technicians had

carried out a CT scan of his face and X-rayed his chest he met the media, ploughing effortlessly through six interviews. After that it was back home for Sunday lunch and the Wimbledon men's final on

television. "It will be a few days before I am back on top form," he said. All eyes then on Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday.

Leading article, page 21



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Charges in the pipeline for water users

By Robin Young and Nick Nuttall

OWNERS of power showers and washing machines that use large amounts of water may have to pay for the privilege of using them.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, is to publish water conservation proposals today, including an obligation on those with appliances using large amounts of water to inform their water companies, so that they can be surcharged or put on meters. He is likely to argue that metering will be the only way to maintain water supplies in drier parts of the country, such as East Anglia.

Because a third of the water in the average house is used in flushing the lavatory, bylaws are to be changed to reduce the maximum volume in one flush from 7.5 to 6 litres. Foreign designs will also be allowed, as well as the siphonic design developed by Thomas Crapper more than a century ago.

"Britain is the only country in the world that says you can only install a siphonic loo. We thought it was about time we entered the 21st century," a government source said. How-

ever, organisations such as the British Bathroom Council, which represents makers of traditional lavatories, will be disappointed by the proposals.

They have argued that relaxing the rules will not conserve water because the continental flap or lid systems are leaky.

"Yes French ones may leak but you can buy German ones engineered with suitable Teutonic efficiency," the government source said. Some British companies, such as Armitage Shanks, have developed a siphonic lavatory that meets the new rules. The draft bylaws are expected to become law next year.

However, conservationists will be concerned that the proposals do not prohibit power showers. Normal showers use five to six litres of water a minute but power showers use 20.

Though the wettest June for decades has recently helped to replenish water reserves, the Government believes that rainfall will become increasingly unpredictable as climatic changes and global warming gather pace.

Friends wanted for Big Issue sellers

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

TONY BLAIR will appeal tomorrow for people to train as voluntary "mentors" to the homeless when he inaugurates a government drive to cut the number sleeping rough.

The Prime Minister will back a scheme devised by *The Big Issue*, the weekly magazine sold by the homeless, for members of the public to offer a sympathetic ear and advice on anything, including health and relationships.

Big Issue staff believe that many who buy the magazine would welcome the opportunity to do more for the homeless. A Downing Street spokesman said that training would be provided. Mr Blair,

who writes in this week's issue, will also use his visit to a day centre in London tomorrow to announce that young homeless who sign up for the Government's New Deal for unemployed under-26-year-olds will not have to spend six months claiming jobseekers' allowance before they progress to training or a job.

He will also describe plans for a London homelessness co-ordinator with a role similar to that of the anti-drugs co-ordinator.

Other cities such as Oxford, Birmingham and Manchester, will be told to make similar appointments.

The Government aims to cut homelessness by a third within three years.

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Guerrillas light fuse of war on Kosovo border

WHILE fighting in Kosovo has so far involved one-street towns and battles in which body counts can be measured in single figures, beyond the mountain borders to the south and east, the creeping fuse to a regional war has been set.



Anthony Loyd reports from Tetovo, one of Macedonia's frontier towns, where ethnic tensions are adding to fears

Swaths of territory in northern Albania have been appropriated by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) for base areas and infiltration routes, many set up under the eyes of Serb special forces deployed for aggressive observation tasks in the forested peaks.

are as heavy as any I have ever known. One incident of serious border violation by the Serbs in hot pursuit of a KLA group and 'boom', watch this place go up."

However, beneath the veneer of calm, tension has increased dramatically in the past three months. Orthodox Macedonians privately admit having considerable sympathy with the Serb strategy in Kosovo; they regard the KLA as a nationalist terrorist group and view the prospect of an independent Kosovo with great suspicion.



"The situation is much worse than it looks," said Ilijaz Halimi, vice-president of the Albanian Democratic Party (DPA) in Tetovo. "The Unpredep forces deployed along the border think they are safeguarding Macedonia from an outside Serb threat, but the risks from abroad are minimal compared to the risks to stability already here. We feel isolated by the Government here and by the Serbs in Kosovo."

Medical posts, ammunition dumps, training and rest areas have been established by the KLA in the Albanian territory running parallel to the Serb's self-styled security zone in Kosovo that stretches from Decane south-east to Dakovica, while their guerrilla groups, who rent their mules as well as buying their weaponry from Albanians, are guided along the heavily contested infiltration routes by local shepherds.

Macedonia breaking apart, causing a domino reaction involving war among its neighbours.

In Albanian villages inside the Macedonian border, menfolk clustered around television screens, glued to the latest footage from Kosovo. They seemed more angry than afraid, as much with their own Government as with the Serbs. "Our Government is collaborating with the Serbs in Kosovo," said one man, his family of Kosovan origin.

"[Richard] Holbrooke [the US envoy to Kosovo] described a tiny town in Kosovo as the 'most dangerous place in Europe,'" remarked an aid worker struggling to operate outside Tropeje. "He should take a walk in these mountains: in the forests there is heavy shelling and ambushes almost every night as the Serbs hit the KLA or else the KLA shoot it out in confusion with each other; in the valleys the KLA drive off Kosovo moderates sent up to reign them in; while the Albanian locals are either locked in blood feuds or plotting to break away from Tirana."

So far these fears seem some way from being realised. The KLA has cells inside Macedonia, but the border seems relatively secure, certainly by Albanian standards, and is policed by both United Nations Preventative Deployment troops (Unpredep) as well as Macedonian forces. Large elements of the Muslim Albanian community have representation in the Skopje Government and appear to co-exist peacefully enough with their Orthodox Macedonian countrymen.

"We Albanians are beginning to feel very alone here, and are starting to think that the future of the Albanian people everywhere can be guaranteed only in one extended Albanian nation." □ Pristina: Diplomatic observer patrols, designed to defuse violence in Kosovo, will begin today, Mr Holbrooke said yesterday. The first patrol would include Brian Donnelly, the British ambassador to Belgrade, his Russian counterpart, and the US charge d'affaires, Richard Miles. (Reuters)



Residents of Varibombi, north of Athens, try to beat down a bush fire raging near their homes yesterday

Killer heatwave sparks Greek fires

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN ATHENS

MORE than 1,000 firemen and soldiers fought to prevent fires from engulfing a wooded mountain north of Athens yesterday as at least two more deaths were reported in a heatwave sweeping southern Europe.

at the news that the temperature was likely to drop after reaching 45C (109F).

Firefighting aircraft backed by army helicopters flew over the fires dumping water. Elderly people and children were evacuated, and eight victims were taken to hospital with burns.

being left under a tree for several hours.

In Italy — where the heatwave has claimed nine lives in the past two days, including two children left in sun-baked vehicles — temperatures fell to seasonal norms of between 30C and 32C yesterday.

Government ministers met in crisis session as 180 fires raged across Greece. But by nightfall only three were still burning and forecasters predicted a fall in temperatures.

The fires were at their worst on Saturday as strong winds whipped up the flames. The authorities believe some were started deliberately. On the island of Salamis a woman in her 60s died trying to flee a blaze. A man aged 80 died trapped in flames on the island of Evvoia.

Sicily had suffered the worst of Italy's heatwave with a high of 46.6C recorded in Syracuse. A two-year-old boy died on the island after being left asleep in a car in sunshine, press reports said. An 18-month-old baby died while left unattended in a caravan in Rome on Friday.

Mount Parnis had been trapped between two fires, one 30 miles north of Athens and the other close to the capital's northern outskirts. Smoke and ash drifted over the city centre. Firemen, troops and residents with buckets brought the flames under control. Alexander Papadopoulos, the Interior Minister, spoke of "a certain optimism".

□ Nicosia: Hundreds of firefighters yesterday fought a bush fire in Cyprus which has burned up to eight sq miles of forest on either side of the divided island's ceasefire line. A village was evacuated. Argentine United Nations peacekeepers, a UN fire brigade with two helicopters from a British military base and local people fought the blaze. (Reuters)

Britain opposes war crime status for landmines

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

WHILE Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has been praising Britain's role in pushing for a global ban on landmines, the Government has quietly blocked a move to make their use a war crime.

Britain's representative at discussions in Rome on setting up a permanent international criminal court has opposed the inclusion of the mines on a list of prohibited weapons.

Negotiations, which had been going on for two weeks, were broken off last week amid acrimony. Many countries want the use of some weapons, including anti-personnel mines and those that maim civilians indiscriminately, to constitute a war crime.

British aid agencies and non-governmental organisations are appalled by Britain's stance. The issue will be debated again this week. On Friday the Government published the Anti-Personnel Mines Bill to enable Britain to ratify the Ottawa Convention. It will be a criminal offence to breach the terms of the convention, which forbids the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of mines. Britain will also set up fact-finding missions to investigate reported violations.

Last week Mr Cook spoke of his delight that time had been found in Parliament to debate the legislation so soon. He said Britain had played a leading part in negotiations leading to the signature of the convention in December. "Though there is still much to be done, I am proud of the contribution Britain has made. We are in the front rank in working towards an international ban," he said.

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'Cossacks' attack Hebron

Christopher Walker reports on a bizarre West Bank rampage



Natanel Nir in Jerusalem after his arrest yesterday

TENSION rose in the West Bank city of Hebron last night after three Jews disguised as Arabs went on the rampage Cossack-style on horseback, attacking Palestinian property and smashing cars with iron bars.

The weekend attack was one of the most bizarre seen in the city, where 450 settlers live surrounded by 120,000 Arabs. One Arab resident complained formally to police that he had been wounded by the attackers, who wore Arab *keffiyehs* to cover their faces.

Yesterday the inter-communal violence intensified when Jewish militants set fire to four Arab produce stalls close to the heavily-fortified buildings where the settlers live guarded round-the-clock by hundreds of Israeli troops. About 80 per cent of the city is under Palestinian control. Israeli

police said that one 20-year-old Jewish man from Jerusalem had been arrested in connection with the mounted attack and that two others, whose identities were known, were being sought.

The arrested man, Natanel Nir, was remanded in custody for five days. The police are also investigating his involvement in the burning of eight vehicles belonging to Arabs in Hebron on May 14.

According to the Tel Aviv daily *Yedioth Aharonot*, the three Israelis rampaged through the main Palestinian neighbourhood of Kasara "like a scene from a Wild West movie". They were pursued by Israeli police who managed to jump on to one of the galloping horses and arrest the rider.

The horses used in the attack came from the Jewish

settlement of Kiryat Arba situated on the outskirts of Hebron. They returned riderless to the stable, whose owner had a son murdered by Palestinians.

The police team which intercepted the three horsemen was only in place at the time and location of the attack because it had been put on special alert after a recent rise in the number of attacks on Palestinians by Jewish settlers.

El Arbit, chief of the Israeli police in Hebron, pledged last night that the security forces would take firm action against extremists from either side who try to increase tension.

A statement from the Israeli pressure group Peace Now said that the latest acts of vandalism in Hebron "proved that it is not possible to maintain Jewish settlers in the midst of an Arab population".

Moderate Arabs condemn Jerusalem plan

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE only three Arab leaders to have peace accords with Israel staged an emergency summit in Cairo yesterday and President Mubarak of Egypt accused the Israelis of "playing with fire" over their plans to impose a tighter grip on Jerusalem.

The summit, the first of its kind since last September, was held amid calls from leading Palestinian officials for those who have signed peace deals with Israel to freeze relations and impose economic sanctions in protest against the 16-month deadlock in the PLO-Israeli peace talks. The result of the summit, which included a warning

issued by Mr Mubarak that if the stalemate continued "violence will erupt", was dismissed by David Bar-Illan, the Communications Director for Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Yesterday's gathering, said by Jordan to be a precursor to a wider Arab summit, had been angered by plans announced last month by Mr Netanyahu to expand Jerusalem's boundaries into Israel proper and to link it to settlements in the West Bank.

Mr Mubarak emphasised that the status of the city, to which both Israel and the Palestinians claim sovereignty, must be left unaltered until the conclusion of talks designed to agree a

lasting peace settlement by May 4, 1999. A joint communiqué from the Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian leaders said the three — regarded as among the most moderate leaders in the 22-member Arab League — assert their "absolute rejection of Judaizing of Jerusalem".

The Israeli plan, bringing 30,000 Jewish settlers under "the umbrella" of Jerusalem municipal control, will come under heavy international fire this week at the United Nations.

Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, is pressing for an urgent full-scale Arab summit to condemn Israel for not agreeing to a US plan that it withdraw from a further 13 per cent of the

occupied West Bank. He said yesterday: "The status of Jerusalem affects the Arabs, the Muslims, the Christians and everyone in the world."

Mr Bar-Illan replied: "It is time the Palestinians joined us at the negotiating table." Mr Arafat broke off talks in March last year after Israeli bulldozers began work on Har Homa, a settlement for 32,000 homes in east Jerusalem.

□ Cairo: Three Arab countries contributed \$1.5 billion towards the Pakistani nuclear programme in the 1970s, Mohammad Hassanain Heikal, the confidante the former President Nasser of Egypt, said in a report published yesterday. (AFP)



Doris Schröder with her husband Gerhard, Helmut Kohl's challenger

So what's a politician's wife supposed to do?

INSIDE GERMANY

There was a bit of a flurry in Germany's Social Democratic Party when it was leaked last week that Doris Schröder would be part of the election "team" of her husband Gerhard — the man who wants to oust Helmut Kohl as Chancellor.

Soon enough it emerged that Doris — who recently became Herr Schröder's fourth wife — was not in line for a Cabinet position but would use her journalistic expertise to polish the candidate's image.



BY ROGER BOYES

Even so, the misreported possibility that the party might have a Hillary Clinton problem — you know, strong woman, independent mind, political ambitions — was enough to panic the old guard, and raised the question of what a leading politician's wife should do with her time. Herr Kohl's wife, Hannelore, has taken the traditional route of charitable works, and has written, with her husband, a cookbook. Herr Schröder's previous wife, Hilmi, tried to combine charity — helping Chernobyl children — with environmental lobbying.

There is no entirely appropriate role. That is why — as a new book by Dr Claudia Kossendey shows — so many political spouses feel isolated, vulnerable and humiliated.

Dr Kossendey, a politician's wife, interviewed dozens of spouses (mainly women but a few husbands too) and found that the long absences of political life forced them to be as tough and enterprising as pioneer wives. Some have been spat

on by constituents. All brought up their children alone. Most tried to stifle thoughts of what their husband might be up to on those long committee nights when the mobile phones are switched off. "He is constantly on the road, gets to know masses of women, some of them very attractive, not stupid, and quite available, and they stand there ... well, that's when you have to stay cool," says Zita, one of the respondents who are given pseudonyms.

Nora says: "Sometimes he does not come home at night, and the next night too ... well, then you just have to show character."

Cleo tells the author that she is shocked by the assumption of constituency workers that her husband is destined to have an affair: that it is a normal event.

German voters demand fidelity — above all in the marital arrangements of their politicians. And so there has been a rush to marry mistresses, acknowledge illegitimate children and open homes to sympathetic journalists. Oskar Lafontaine, chairman

of the Social Democrats, not only married his lover, but also wrote a book, about globalisation with her.

An expert quoted by Dr Kossendey calculates that an average politician's marriage ends after 15 to 20 years. Yet their husbands' fidelity does not appear to be the main concern of stay-at-home wives. The chief complaints were:

□ Being held captive by the telephone. "The telephone is next to the bed and he's always available," said Inna. "The press ring at five in the morning for a radio interview and it goes on until midnight."

□ The impossibility of making family plans. Dorothea said: "I remember racing in my car up to his party meeting so that we could go on to attend our child's graduation and then eventually, after waiting for hours, he came out of the meeting and announced: 'You've got to go alone.'"

□ No time together. Anna said: "I get to see him between, say, seven and 7.30 in the morning and then between ten and 11 at night."

The sadness of political life comes out in Inna's testimony: "There have been certain situations when I was being operated on, things like that, when I was always alone. I would drive alone to the hospital and return alone."

The wives complain that they become invisible at their husbands' side or that they are entirely identified with his politics. The most sorely-felt complaint is the collapse of friendships.

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مركز من الأهل

Last call for Hong Kong's urban airport

TENS of thousands of people crowded onto the rooftops of Hong Kong's tower blocks last night to catch a last nerve-jangling glimpse of aircraft landing at one of the world's most notorious airports.

The final flight in and out of Kai Tak airport ended an era in which aircraft swooped less than 200 ft over blocks of flats on the approach to the biggest city centre airport in the world.

The nerve-jangling descents into Kai Tak have become legendary in the airline industry, with pilots having to have a special licence before negotiating the sharp bank around mountains before almost skimming the rooftops.

For the people of Hong Kong, last night's long-awaited closure of Kai Tak provided an enjoyable alternative to the World Cup as evening entertainment.

As well as the thousands on rooftops and lining the streets near the airport, hundreds ignored police advice to stay away and swarmed across the concourses, filming the last hours of the 73-year-old airport. More than 380,000 residents on the flight path will

Arthur Leathley
sees islanders
wave a relieved
goodbye to the
jumbo jets
skimming over
their rooftops

today experience an unusual hush, spared the continual screaming of planes overhead. The noise of the 31 flights an hour had become such a distraction for pupils that the airport provided a homework room that was quieter than houses in the flight path.

From today millions of passengers will travel through the huge £12 billion Chek Lap Kok airport, built 20 miles outside Hong Kong city.

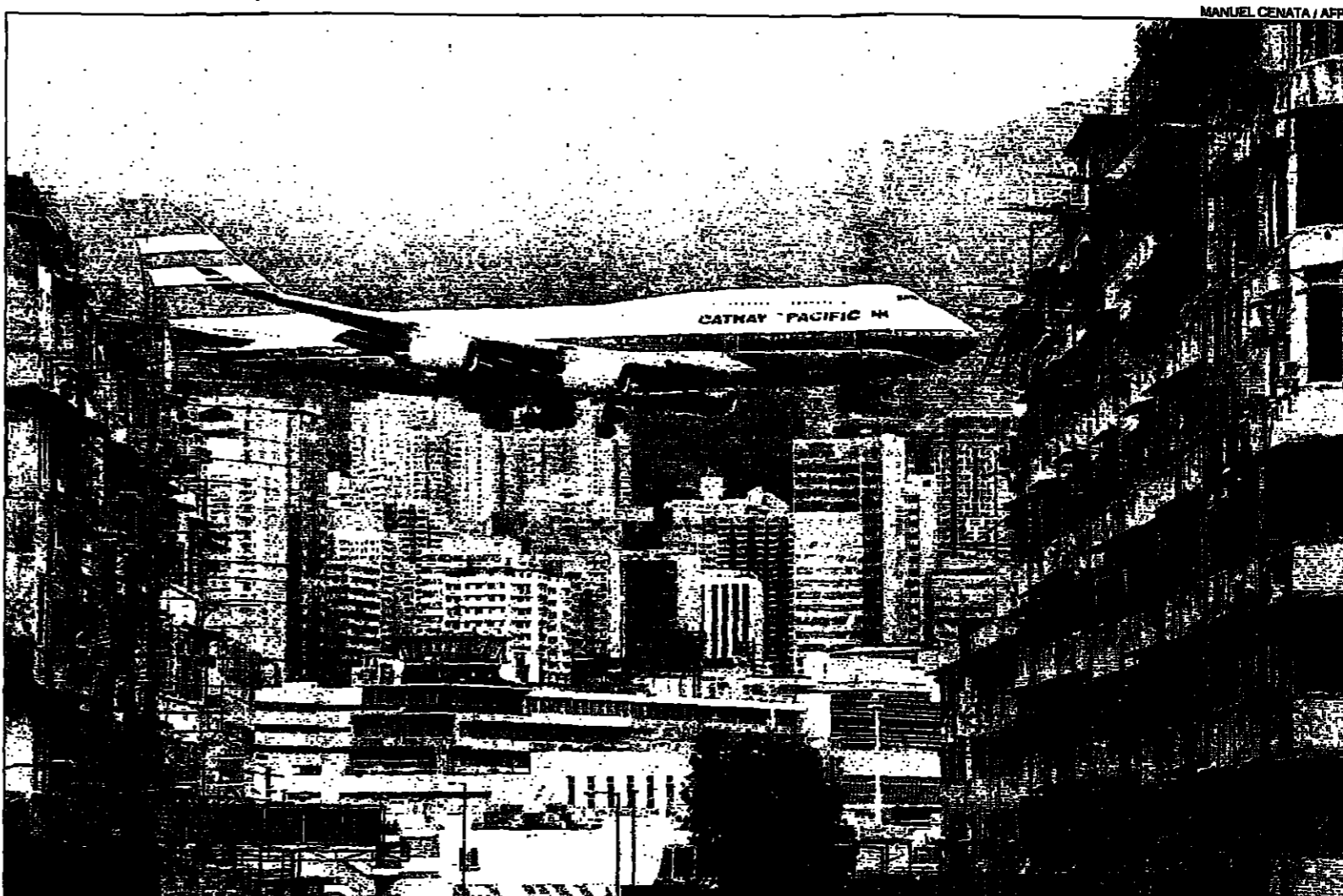
Last night's closure marked the start of a remarkable seven-hour operation in which vital heavy airport equipment had to be carried from the old

airport to the new in time for flights to resume at first light today. In that time, more than 1,100 high-sided and wide-bodied lorries had to make the journey between the airports, often travelling at less than 10mph through densely populated streets and over one of the longest suspension bridges in the world, built to link the new airport with Hong Kong.

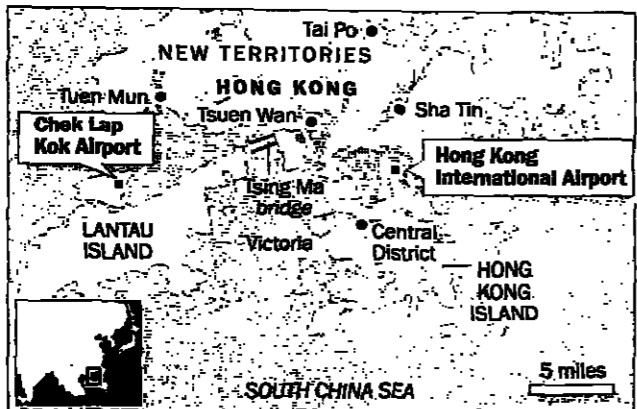
In addition, 15 huge barges were drafted in to make the journey with the heaviest loading equipment that could not be taken by road. Thirty aircraft which landed at Kai Tak late yesterday also had to make the short hop to the new airport to be ready for the first flights today.

The massive removal exercise, claimed by the airport authorities to be the biggest peacetime operation of its kind, was at risk until only days before the move. Hong Kong is in the middle of its typhoon season and airport managers would have been forced to postpone the exercise for at least a week if there were any signs of typhoons. Winds of more than 20 mph would have been enough to scupper the exercise, with vehicles at risk of being blown over as they crossed the mile-long suspension bridge to Lantau Island, where Chek Lap Kok has been built.

Hong Kong has simply outgrown its airport and Chek Lap Kok, which is forecast to handle 87 million passengers a year, making it the biggest international airport in the world, has become the key to business and tourism expansion in the region. With half the world's population living within five hours' flying time, and the Chinese airline industry predicted to become the



One of the final Boeing 747 jets to land at Kai Tak in Hong Kong makes its spectacular descent yesterday as the airport prepared to close down



fastest growing in the world over the next decade, the new airport is geared up to take advantage of the surge in air travel.

However, the timing of the opening could scarcely have been worse, coming as it does

at a time of economic crisis throughout much of southeast Asia. About 29 million passengers fly in and out of Hong Kong and authorities last year predicted that this would rise to 32 million next year. However, they have had to concede

that the slump may lead to a drop in numbers in the short term. Amid the huge changes in Hong Kong's recent history the airport closure also makes available an expanse of flat land capable of housing 80,000 people. Again the

timing is appalling for the Government, because land values have slumped. The airport runway is expected to remain undeveloped for the next two years.

Last night as the lights were ceremonially switched off at

Kai Tak, the authorities were inviting bids from local business to make use of the huge amounts of office and storage space available in the airport buildings.

Flights of fancy, page 46

Jiang gamble with Clinton visit may herald more open China

By JAMES PRINGLE

CHINA'S President Jiang Zemin has managed for the first time since the death of senior leader Deng Xiaoping early last year to portray himself as a confident spokesman of the Chinese Communist Party and State.

It is hoped that there could be new openings in China as a result. This was the main outcome of Mr Jiang's successful summit with President Clinton.

But while Mao Zedong fought the Japanese and helped to reunify China free of foreign influence, and Deng created an economic revolu-

tion. Mr Jiang has yet to make his mark.

With the transfer of Hong Kong from British to Chinese sovereignty accomplished successfully, Mr Jiang needs to initiate further moves on what for the Chinese leadership has always been the most important question — the reunification of Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a renegade province — with the mainland.

"Taiwan is the obvious challenge, and to make progress Jiang must make China a more attractive place for Taiwanese," one analyst said.

However, although Mr Jiang has gained self-confidence, there would

be opposition among conservatives to any dramatic changes, and he will have to proceed with caution.

Among China watchers there is some consensus that during his nine-day visit, Mr Clinton gave ground by agreeing to stand with Mr Jiang on the edge of Tiananmen Square scene of the 1989 massacre, and by publicly backing Beijing's position on Taiwan. China responded by permitting Mr Clinton's remarks in which he criticised the Tiananmen killings — truly a revelation to Chinese — to be broadcast on television.

The President also reiterated the

"Three Noes" on Taiwan: No to Taiwanese independence, No to "Two Chinas" and No to "One China and One Taiwan".

"This was an important American concession which has worried Taiwan, and it explains why Jiang had to give ground himself on Clinton's access to Chinese airwaves," said one envoy. "It was a quid pro quo. Jiang needed it to convince the gerontocrats he could move forward."

No one expects the mass release of political prisoners soon, but the litmus test on whether there will be any real change is that Beijing does not now start re-arresting dissi-

dents and those who spoke out during Mr Clinton's visit, particularly Bao Tong, a former senior Government official who criticised the Tiananmen crackdown at the time. His political rights were restored recently after eight years in prison.

"It seems that Jiang realises that, to secure his legacy and put him up alongside Mao and Deng, he has to move on reuniting Taiwan with the mainland," said Robin Munro, the director of the Hong Kong office of Human Rights Watch.

Mr Jiang must be feeling confident if he was willing to gamble on allowing Mr Clinton to speak on

taboo subjects such as Tiananmen, Tibet and human rights. "This was a very significant step. It was unprecedented," Mr Munro said.

All eyes will now be on Beijing to see whether Mr Jiang moves towards a more open China or whether the summit just runs away into the sand.

Harassment appeal: A call for a law to punish sexual harassment has been made by Chen Guizun, a member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported yesterday. (AP)

Republican response, page 14



Jiang: has yet to make his mark on China

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Clinton opponents forced to praise his China trip

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IT MAY have stuck in the craw, but Republicans admitted yesterday that President Clinton had done well in China.

They promised, however, that they would still press ahead with hearings into allegations to determine whether national security was jeopardised by the Chinese connection to the Clinton re-election campaign's finances.

"There's no doubt the President's performance was excellent," said John McCain, a Republican senator from Arizona who has an eye on running for the White House.

A smart about-face was executed by Newt Gingrich, Republican Speaker, who six weeks ago wrote to Mr Clinton with 150 other House members demanding that he cancel his China trip because he was "ethically ill-equipped" to represent the United States.

After Mr Clinton discussed such taboo issues as human rights and personal freedoms on Chinese television, Mr Gingrich was obliged to praise the President's diplomatic skill.

"I think if you reach out to a billion people and talk about open markets and expand the zone of freedom in the planet, that's a pretty good investment," he said.

Tom DeLay, majority House whip, said: "He looked good, he sounded good and he was saying the right things."

With images of Mr Clinton's televised and talk-radio appearances in China fresh in

voters' minds, Republicans have delayed a Senate vote scheduled for this week on measures that would deny visas to Chinese officials involved in compulsory abortion policies and forbid American backing to new international loans to China.

However, all the Republicans added a forceful note of caution. While the presidential trip was strong on style, they said, it was weak on substance. They complained that Mr Clinton had failed to win commitments from Beijing on the release of religious prisoners or any apology for the Tiananmen Square massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in 1989.

For all his public relations triumph, Mr Clinton will enjoy only a brief respite from the explosive topic of whether Chinese money influenced a decision he made that could have helped China's nuclear forces.

Johnny Chung, an American businessman born in Taiwan, has confessed that he donated \$100,000 (£62,500) from an army officer who is an executive with China Aerospace Corporation.

Mr Clinton has denied the implication that there was a quid pro quo enabling Loral Space and Communications, an American firm, to continue its involvement with the Chinese rocket programme in exchange for its campaign backing.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



Fourth of July fireworks illuminate the Two Jima monument at the US Marines training camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, but bushfire risks in areas from Florida to New Mexico forced other displays to be cancelled

WORLD IN BRIEF

Pope urges flock to keep Sunday sacred

Rome: The Pope yesterday urged Christians to rediscover the value of Sunday, even if it meant going against the grain of a society that sees it as just part of the weekend. He also urged Roman Catholics to use their holidays to restore the spirit as well as the body.

Giving his last Sunday message in St Peter's Square until after the summer, he spoke of the theme of a new Apostolic Letter, *Dies Domini* (The Day of the Lord), that he will issue tomorrow. The Pope said Sundays should be treated as sacred.

"Today, to remain faithful [to the tradition of Sunday] one very often has swim upstream," he said. The new document is expected to address issues such as Sunday business and dedicating the day to the family. (Reuters)

Florida begins to tame fires

Washington: Rising humidity and a shift in the wind enabled 5,000 firefighters to gain the upper hand against spectacular wildfires that have raged through northeastern Florida (Ian Brodie writes). Some 60 fires were still burning, many of them uncontained, and it was too early to declare the danger passed. Weathermen predict that thunderstorms from the Gulf of Mexico by midweek could extinguish the last of the flames and smouldering embers.

Pretender calls for uprising

Paris: The pretender to the French throne, Henri d'Orléans, right, Comte de Paris, has called on the French nation to rebel against the single European currency, which he predicts will destroy Europe and France (Ben Macintyre writes). Guests at his 90th birthday party yesterday at Amboise included Prince Rainier of Monaco and the former King Michael I of Romania. Letters, page 21



Zimbabwe land grab chaos

Harare: The Zimbabwe Government has gone back on its word to hundreds of white farmers that their land would not be seized (Jan Raath writes). It had written to 600 farmers on a "compulsory acquisition" list of 1,480 farms, and told them their land had been removed. But yesterday Vice-President Simon Muzenda was reported as saying that 200 properties were back on the list. The announcement caused confusion among white farmers.

Two shot in Croat Cup joy

Mostar: Emina Catic, 25, was killed and Husein Dalilovic, 67, suffered a serious head wound as Croatia fans in this divided Muslim-Croat town in Bosnia-Herzegovina fired guns in the streets on Saturday evening to celebrate their side's 3-0 World Cup quarter-final victory over Germany. Sir Martin Garrod, the deputy to the leading international mediator in Bosnia, Carlos Westendorp, strongly condemned the incidents. (AFP) Croatian pride, page 29

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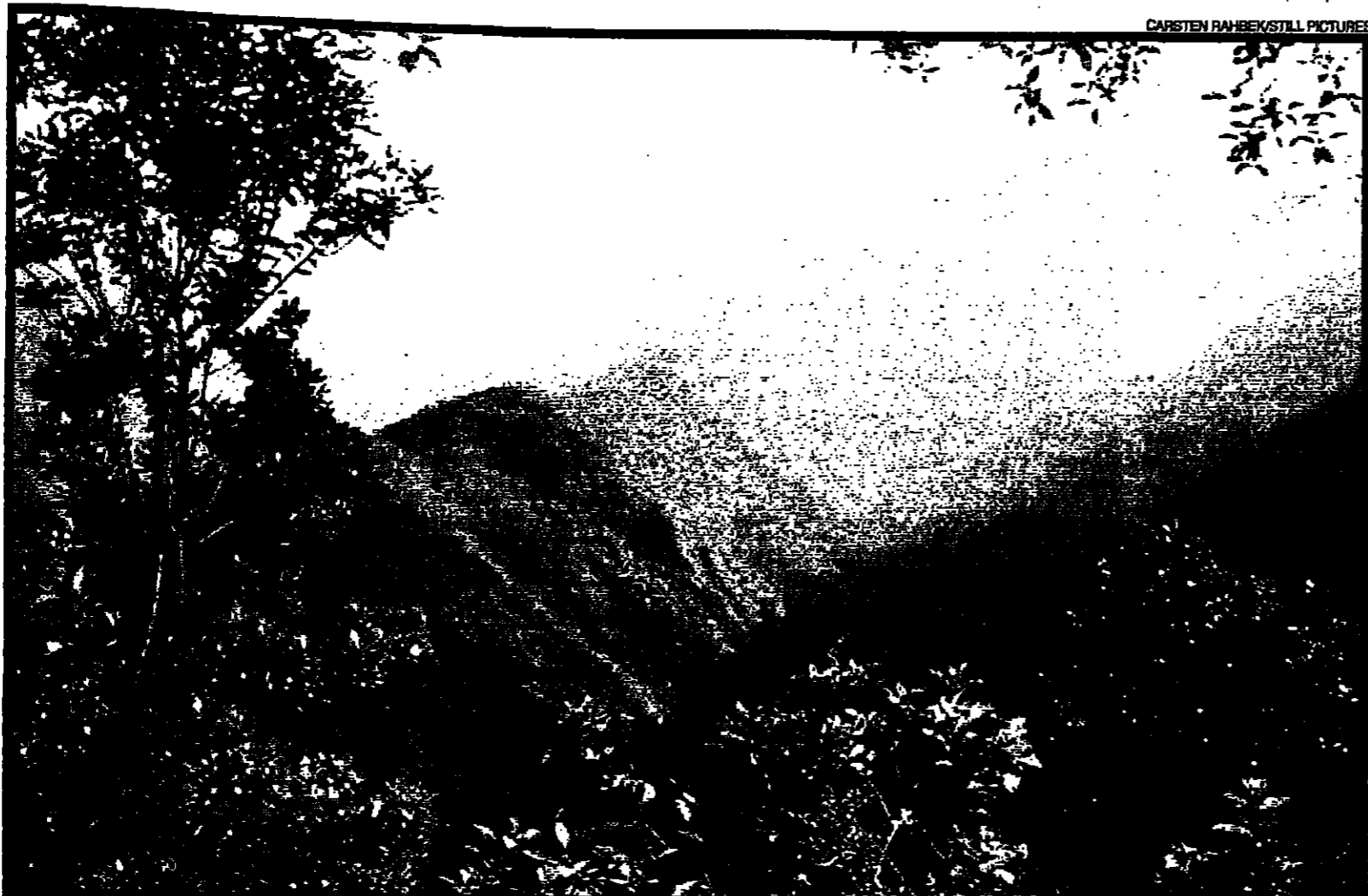
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New bird of the Andes



The scientists were recording birdsong in the Ecuadorean rainforests when they heard an unfamiliar song — a cross between a dog barking and an owl hooting

Ornithologists in Ecuador have discovered the first new species in 50 years. Anjana Ahuja reports

After five days watching and waiting in the Ecuadorean jungle, the team was becoming anxious. The 11 members, who were there to gather evidence of a new bird species, began to fear that their expedition would end in failure.

"We were growing pretty despondent," says David Agro, an ornithologist from the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. "It was the last day of our trip and we hadn't got anywhere."

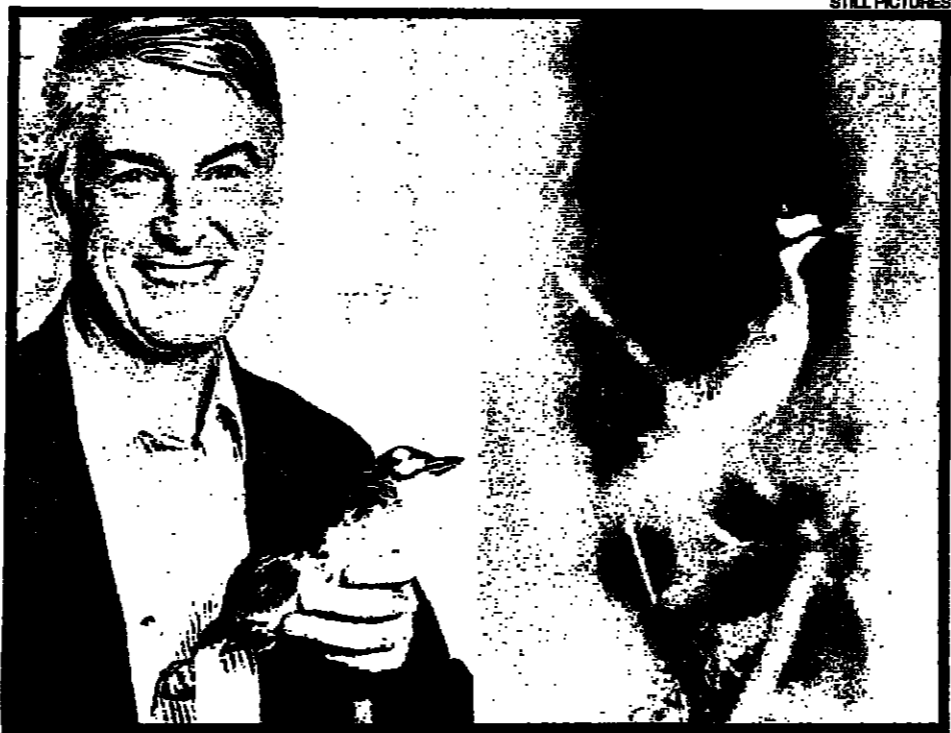
Suddenly, Agro heard the bird calling in the distance and played a tape of birdsong to lure it towards him. "Nothing happened for 20 minutes. Then, like a flash, this bird was 30ft behind me. He was very excitable, as if to say 'Who's this in my territory?' He got quite aggressive and came within 10ft of me. He didn't even notice I was there."

The bird had been fooled into thinking that another male was in his domain and was lured straight into a net. Agro had finally caught a bird ranking as probably the most important avian species discovered for half a century. It belongs to the genus *Antpitta*, an insectivorous tropical-forest dweller with a thrush-like body and long, spindly, blue-

grey legs. About 8in high, it has a dark brown head and back, and whitish-grey plumage on its throat and belly. There is a white patch on its face and it has a stout beak.

The ornithologists are reluctant to divulge any more; in accordance with protocol, a full description and detailed photographs will appear first in a scientific journal. The team, led by Dr Robert Ridgely, head of ornithology at the academy, and Dr Niels Krabbe, a bird expert in Ecuador, will reveal the findings of its January expedition in about six months in *The Auk*, the US ornithological journal. Its members have also earned the right to give their find a popular and a scientific name, which are being kept secret until publication.

"The bird is quite distinctive. It's amazing that something so utterly recognisable as a different species has gone unnoticed, especially as birds are one of the most closely studied animal groups," Agro says. "There are about two or three new bird species identified every year, but they are usually cryptic species — they differ in a very small way from an already familiar species. The only discovery that comes close happened about a decade



Dr Robert Ridgely with his find, as yet unnamed, a member of the genus *Antpitta*

ago, when a long-whiskered owl was found in Peru. But this is a much bigger find."

The credit for the original discovery goes to Ridgely. Last November he and John Moore, a birdsong expert, and Lelis Nevarrete, an Ecuadorean ornithologist, were in the Andes, in the Loja region of southern Ecuador, to record birdsong when they heard an unfamiliar song — a cross between a dog barking and an owl hooting. Ridgely recorded the strange warblings and replayed them; the bird came closer. When Ridgely, a world expert on the birds of Ecuador, caught a glimpse of it, he knew at once that it was a new species and excitedly returned to Philadelphia armed with photographs. He deems the discovery the highlight of his 35-year career.

The next challenge was to fund a proper expedition to Ecuador to collect a "type specimen" to bring back to Philadelphia for scrutiny, including genetic tests which are required for the formal recording of a new species.

Among those who provided money for the January expedition was an anonymous English scientist, Agro, who manages the academy's ornithological collection, became involved as well as ornithologists from Ecuador, Denmark and Canada. A photographer also joined the party.

The team knew that a specimen would not be easy to track down. As well as being an elusive bird, its thick bamboo habitat on steep mountain slopes is not an easy place to

comb. "This species is never casually encountered," Agro says. "You always have to play tapes of it singing. So we were systematically going along every road, trail and pathway we thought the birds were using. Sometimes we had to hack through wet rainforest with machetes."

"The hardest bit was setting up the mist nets, which the birds blunder into. We had to move up and down the slopes, grabbing the bamboo plants because it was so steep."

There are two possible reasons why the species has escaped detection — either the birds rarely venture outside a narrow territory, or they sing only during a short breeding season. Now that their existence has been revealed, the scientists are keeping their exact location secret.

The anonymous English scientist who helped to finance the original research has now set up a charitable fund to buy the private land where the birds — of which there are estimated to be 30 — are nesting. The Jocotoco Foundation will need £21,000 to buy 1,000 acres. There is some urgency about their mission. As with so much of the South American rainforest, the land is vulnerable to deforestation by farmers. "There is similar habitat in northern Peru, so we may find the bird there, too," Agro says. "But this could be the only place in the world where it exists. We must do all we can to protect it."

Cholesterol levels Mighty mice Inner space

Doubts on dieting



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

FOR years, people whose cholesterol levels are above average have been urged to diet. By cutting out fatty foods, they have been told, they can lower cholesterol in their bloodstream, reduce the risk of blocking the coronary arteries and live longer. This advice has always been trumpeted louder in America than in Europe, but has nevertheless become part of the "healthy eating" movement here, in spite of a few doctors daring to suggest that the evidence was flimsy.

A study in last week's *New England Journal of Medicine* shows that even the more extreme diets are ineffective on their own. Only if combined with exercise do the so-called "Step II" diets — recommended for the past decade by the US National Cholesterol Education Programme — significantly lower the dangerous kind of cholesterol.

Step II diets are quite demanding. Typically, people eating a Western diet obtain 35 to 40 per cent of their calories from fat, but the Step II diet lowers that figure to between 20 and 22 per cent. To persuade the volunteers to stick to the regime, the research team at Stanford University rang them often, at unannounced times, to demand to know what they had eaten in the past 24 hours.

They picked 377 volunteers who were already on a low-fat diet and divided them into four groups. One group was given the Step II diet on its own, one the diet plus exercise, one only exercise and the last neither. The exercise regime was equivalent

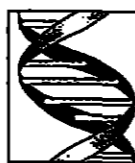
to ten miles' brisk walking or jogging a week.

The aim of the diet is to cut the damaging form of cholesterol, the so-called low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, without reducing the protective HDL form. At the end of a year, the team found that HDL remained pretty constant in every group, but the only group in which LDL had fallen was the one that both exercised and dieted. In this group, LDL fell by about 9 per cent in women and 13 per cent in men — a useful shift, corresponding perhaps to a reduction in heart-attack risk of 25 per cent or so in the men and rather less in the women. Diet or exercise alone had no effect.

Why the exercise made the difference is not clear, since those who undertook it did not lose any more weight than those who did not. Perhaps, say Dr Marcia Stefanik and her co-authors, there is something about diet plus exercise that is particularly beneficial to cholesterol levels, even in the absence of weight loss.

She concludes that advice given in the past has put too much emphasis on diet and too little on exercise. But the National Cholesterol Education Programme remains adamant that it got things right. For a start, says James Cleeman, the programme's co-ordinator, it does recommend exercise as well as diet; he claims that the Stanford study contains too few people to see the diet's beneficial effect. Clearly, it will take more than mere evidence to shift this particular dietary ideology.

Scientists produce freeze-dried sperm



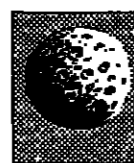
EGGS, sperm and embryos of many species can be stored by freezing but, until two researchers from the University of Hawaii came along, few would have suspected that freeze-drying, used for making instant coffee, could provide an alternative. The process involves chilling, then removing water by sublimating it.

Dr Ryszard Yanagimachi and Dr Teruhiko Wakayama took sperm from a mouse and freeze-dried it, which disrupted the cell membranes, leaving the sperm technically dead. They stored the dried sperm at ordinary temperatures for up to three months and even took it on a three-week trip to Japan. Then they simply added water and injected the sperm into a mouse egg.

Remarkably, it worked. Nearly 90 per cent of the eggs were fertilised, they report in *Nature Biotechnology*, and when transplanted into mouse mothers, a quarter were born as healthy, live young.

The procedure could be useful as a way of storing the growing number of mouse strains, or of stockpiling the sperm of endangered species.

Asteroid found inside the Earth's orbit

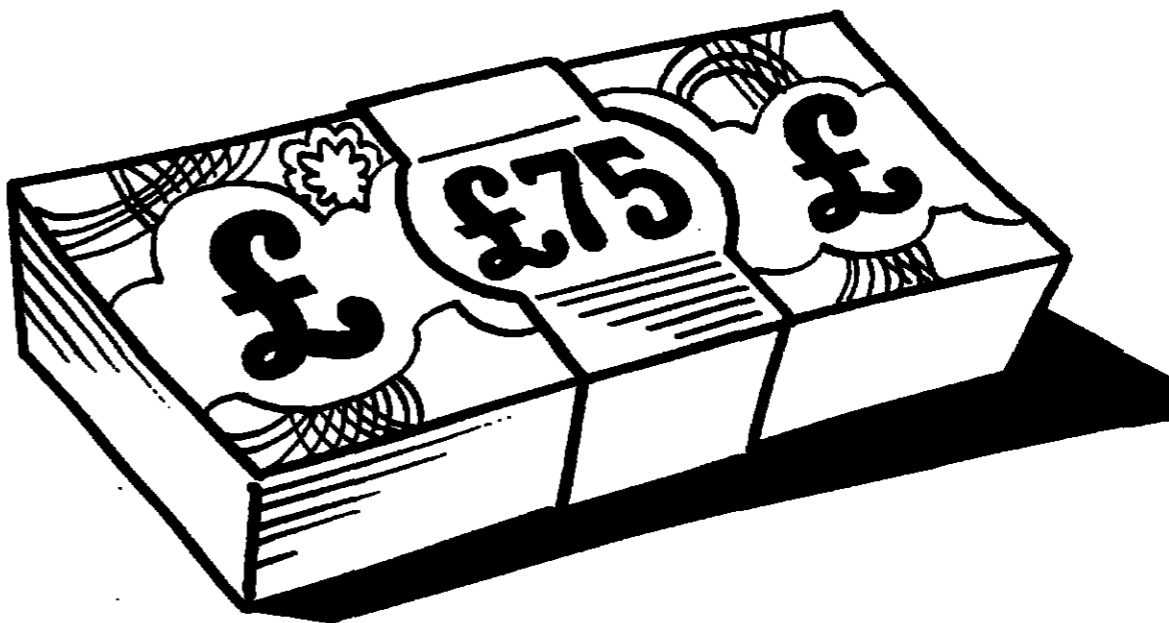


ASTRONOMERS have discovered an asteroid in a place where none has been discovered before, in an orbit that lies entirely inside that of Earth. Normally, asteroids lie much farther out in the solar system, though some have orbits that cross that of Earth. But 1998 DK36, which is about 40 metres in diameter — the same size as the object that flattened a huge area of Siberian forest in 1908 — is an oddball.

The team that found it, at the University of Hawaii, says it is nothing to worry about as it is not on a collision course with Earth. But because it was so hard to spot, there could be others in similar orbits that nobody would see until the last minute. They would approach us from the daytime side of the sky and "we would never see them coming," says Professor David Tholen. "But 1998 DK36 is nothing to lose sleep over — it's the ones we haven't found yet that are of concern."

He and Robert Whitley used a specialised camera fitted on the University of Hawaii's 2.24-metre telescope. They now think that the search for Earth-colliding asteroids should be intensified and redirected.

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FEATURES 17

Computer at home provides advantage at school

Would your boss pay the ransom?

Going abroad on business carries an increasing risk of kidnap. Insurance against this is a well kept secret, says Grace Bradberry

London, June. The conference suite of a smart hotel in Knightsbridge. The bespectacled man next to me pales. "For God's sake don't mention the name of my company," he whispers. It sounds melodramatic, but then kidnap — which is what he has come to find out about — is a melodramatic business. And a booming one. Accurate figures are hard to come by as countries are loath to admit the extent of the problem, but kidnapping is one of the world's most lucrative criminal activities. In 1996 there were an estimated 12,500 reported kidnappings around the world.

No matter what happens in the movies, most people pay up and shut up. An estimated 38 per cent of kidnap victims are expatriate employees, and many multinational companies now take out insurance to pay not only the ransom but the fees for specialist negotiators. The K&R (Kidnap and ransom) industry is a shadowy world of former FBI, SAS and Special Branch men, who know the drill in each country and operate accordingly. One of the leading operators is Kroll Associates, an international risk management company, which can fly in a negotiator within 24 hours. It also acts as a consultant to the insurance company AIG.

I assure my nervous neighbour that his identity is safe with me (he is his company's insurance purchaser) and go to mingle with the grey-suited executives nibbling miniature Danish pastries and drinking tea from china cups. They are here to learn how they can protect themselves and their employees from being kidnapped: they listen hard as a former FBI agent explains when and where a hijack is most likely to occur.

"Most kidnappings happen in the morning, in a car, when someone is going to their place of work," says Richard McCormick, senior managing director of Kroll. He is also a certified protection official for the American Society for Industrial Security, and a specialist in counter-espionage. Once this world of ransom negotiations, "drops" and "bagmen" would have had no connection with the culture of memoranda and management appraisals inhabited by those seated before McCormick. Since the early 1990s, however, the corporate employee has become a target.

In South America in particular, the emphasis has shifted from wealthy landowners to foreigners with multinationals

behind them. But this is not something that anyone talks about, and with good reason. Were kidnapers to discover who was insured and who was not, they could target accordingly. Insurers such as AIG, which has a co-operation agreement with Kroll, insist on discretion as a condition of the policy. As a result, kidnap insurance is one of the most deeply hidden of all hidden costs.

Jennie Seabrook, manager of the crisis management division of AIG Europe, is reluctant to give figures but says that the most basic kidnap policy, with a £1 million limit on each claim (and excluding Latin America, the Philippines and the Middle East) would cost around £500 a year. A multinational company might pay tens of thousands a year to cover employees operating in Colombia.

The policy would cover the ransom itself, the cost of negotiators, the salary of the person kidnapped, the salary of any relative involved in negotiations and the cost of reuniting the victim with his or her family, up to the agreed limit.

That limit applies to each kidnapping. "If you are unfortunate, you could have recurring policies throughout the year and each one would be paid up to the agreed limit," says Ms Seabrook.

It is, of course, a lot cheaper than paying the ransom from company coffers. In recent years, kidnapers have demanded \$16.9 million for a German businessman and \$18 million for an Italian. In the Northern Caucasus, an emerging kidnap hotspot, ransoms average \$1 million.

No one wants to reveal much about the negotiation process, referred to as a "deployment". McCormick is the veteran of 75 negotiations over the past four years, but all he will say is that many kidnappings could be prevented if employees followed basic advice. People going to high-risk areas should learn how to anticipate a kidnap and how to tell whether they are under surveillance, he says. Once kidnapped, employees should do as they are told — it is not a good idea to try to escape. If they stay put, the chances are that the ransom will be paid and they will be released unhurt. Any escape attempt increases your risk of being killed.

McCormick also has some advice for the employers of kidnap victims. "In a kidnapping, the family suffers more than the victim," he says. "Ringing the family is criti-



Held captive: business travellers can invite unwelcome attention by looking too smart. When in doubt, dress down

cal. This might seem like simple humanity, but it is not unknown for companies to treat kidnap as a corporate problem and to forget the human price. André Pienaar, a director of Kroll, believes that the number of kidnappings worldwide has doubled in five years. The new villains, he says, are narco-terrorists, organised criminal enterprises, disgruntled local communities and even the police, who may collude with kidnapers.

In Central and South America, the riskiest countries are Colombia, where there were more than 800 reported kidnaps last year, followed by Mexico, Brazil, Guatemala and Venezuela. In Asia, the worst hotspot is the Philippines, while South Africa, Yemen, Nigeria and Somalia are also dangerous. Employees can be remarkably naïve. "In some South

American countries, wearing ordinary spectacles is a sign of wealth," says Pienaar. "The standard advice we give is to dress down. Don't wear your best suit or your pinstripes. But still people walk around carrying little laptop computers — that's another tell-tale sign that you're a foreigner."

While helicopter lifts feature heavily in films, more than 60 per cent of abduction cases end in some kind of financial settlement. About 10 per cent of victims are killed. Only 1 per cent escape. Not surprisingly, Pienaar can supply little in the way of light relief. He tells the story of the American kidnapped in Russia who escaped after three weeks when his kidnappers drank so much vodka that they passed out. Or there is the case of the German man kidnapped in Yemen, who said he had been so well treated that his experience should be marketed as a package holiday.

GUARDED BY GUERRILLAS

At 7.30 on the morning of September 23, 1994, 50-year-old Dr Thomas Hargrove decided to take the scenic route to his work at the Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) near Cali, Colombia. He was stopped at a roadblock and kidnapped by narco-terrorists belonging to FARC (Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia), one of the world's last communist guerrilla armies.

"My kidnappers were from 13 to 19 years old," he says. "Most were illiterate or semi-literate. I met four who called themselves Rambo." He was taken to a camp high in the Andes, where, for the first two months, he was guarded by seven guerrillas. "The loneliness was terrible. When I got too depressed and wanted to scream, I would think, 'Tom, you can't do it because if you lose control of your mind, you're dead'."

"All the guerrillas would get drunk on brandy and stoned on basuco, which is what's left after you refine cocaine. One night they started playing with their guns, firing over one another's heads. The next morning their commander, Juaco, went fishing and they started spraying the mountains with air assault rifles. I looked out and saw a cow lying with its feet in the air. When Juaco came back and saw the cow, he went insane. He decided it was my fault. At noon Juaco came into my mud hut and put the muzzle of his gun behind my head. Then he fired above my head."

Later Dr Hargrove was taken to a FARC camp further down in the mountains, where a new commander took over. In November, things got worse. "I was chained for 36 hours, and then told there was a letter for me from the regional committee." It accused him of being a full colonel in the US Army, an expert in counter-guerrilla warfare.

"I thought, 'I'm dead'. I was given a typewriter to respond. It was the most important letter I'll ever write. I wrote it, and from then on I was in chains." If Dr Hargrove's life was terrible, then so, in a different way, was his wife Susan's. When her husband was first kidnapped, she followed instructions from her husband's company. They told her that if the kidnappers called, she should say she did not speak Spanish and put the phone down. The company held a press conference saying that it wouldn't negotiate and wouldn't pay a ransom. "After three-and-a-half months, I decided that I either had to kill Tom's career or kill Tom," says Susan Hargrove. She went against the company line and began negotiating by radio, with the help of a Spanish-speaking friend. "Finally we discovered we couldn't do this on our own and Tom's brother hired a security company."

When their original ransom demand was not met, the kidnappers went silent for weeks at a time. The family had to let their security advisers return to England. After that Kroll Associates stepped in and gave them free advice. Finally they negotiated a price of several hundred thousand dollars, and a promise that Dr Hargrove would be released within three days. The money was put into specially built crates and a hired "base man" made the drop on a mountain road outside Cali. But after three days, Dr Hargrove remained in captivity.

In August the kidnappers, by then hiding in a high volcano crater, demanded a second ransom, which was paid by CIAT. Dr Hargrove was still not released. "We thought Tom was dead. I felt a total failure," says Susan.

Five days later, on August 21, at 6.30am, a guerrilla told Dr Hargrove: "It's your time to leave." Two days later, helped by local Indians, he reached his home in Cali — and safety.

Cheap way to treat women

For bright young women leaving university, journalism must seem a tantalisingly desirable career. Newspapers and magazines are full of female bylines. Women can make their name early, so that they are established in their work before having children. And talent is so transparent that the world of the written word must be a true meritocracy. But is it?

Any gathering of women journalists echoes to the same lament: women are paid less than their male colleagues, they find it hard to win the really senior jobs, and combining career with children in a culture designed for workaholic men with wives at home is a serious challenge. Any evidence, though, was no more than anecdotal — until now.

Today sees the publication of a report by Women in Journalism, based on a MORI survey. The Cheaper Sex, sponsored by Tesco, paints a fascinating picture of the pay and seniority, backgrounds and views of men and women on national newspapers and magazines. Women journalists are, on average, younger: two thirds are under 36, compared with less than half of their male colleagues. Men are three times more likely to have spent 20 or more years in the profession.

But the women have better qualifications. On newspapers, 93 per cent of women, but only 77 per cent of men, have had further or higher education. And 13 per cent of women have attended Oxford or Cambridge, compared with just 2 per cent of men. In the younger age group on newspapers (though not magazines), this disparity is suitably rewarded. Young female newspaper journalists tend to earn more than men of the same age. Up to the age of 25, they earn, on average, £32,000 compared with £25,000 for men. These findings support the anecdotal evidence that national newspapers recruit female "stars" — with an Oxbridge First female "stars" — but fewer who and a neat turn of phrase — but fewer who are run-of-the-mill. The Times, in the past few years, has had a disproportionate number of truly excellent female appli-

A survey shows that female journalists are valued less than male colleagues, says Mary Ann Sieghart



Dorothy Parker: pioneer journalist

cants for its graduate trainee scheme, well outnumbering men. But what happens to them later? The survey shows that older women on newspapers, and women of all ages on magazines, tend to earn less than their male contemporaries. On average, men of 36 or more earn between £4,000 and £5,000 more than women of a similar age, and at the top end of newspapers, 11 per cent of older men earn more than £60,000 but only 1 per cent of older women. As in so many other professions, it is having children that seems to blight women's careers. And they are well aware of the problem. The survey asked journalists whether career and money factors had made them decide not to have a child at a certain time: 29 per cent of mothers said yes, but only 11 per cent of fathers. On newspapers, the contrast is even starker: mothers were more than four times more likely than fathers to have delayed having children or decided against having

another child. The result is that fathers on newspapers are twice as likely as mothers to have three or more offspring.

Women's careers suffer more from having children. Asked their job title, 32 per cent of fathers on newspapers described themselves as editors or deputy editors, compared with just 12 per cent of mothers. On magazines, the pattern is there, but less pronounced: fathers lead mothers by 37 per cent to 28 per cent. Mothers on newspapers are clustered in the less well-paid positions of feature writer or reporter. And they agree that it is more difficult for capable women journalists than for capable men to get ahead in their careers: 70 per cent said yes, compared with just 11 per cent of fathers. Childless women, though, were much more evenly split, lending weight to the idea that problems for women on newspapers tend to arise only when they have children. On magazines, 42 per cent of parents of both sexes thought life was harder for women.

So how should managements react? The position is not dire: after all 85 per cent of women say that they are satisfied with their current job (compared with 91 per cent of men). But perhaps a greater understanding of the work/family dilemma would help. Sixty-two per cent of female journalists say they could do their job just as well if working patterns were arranged to suit their personal needs. In a world of pagers, faxes and mobile phones, laptops and networked computers, there should be far greater flexibility now than ever before. This technology can liberate women in journalism — and beyond.

But still only a fifth of newspaper journalists and just over a quarter of magazine writers say their employer offers flexible hours or outworking from home. The lesson is clear, and if it is not learnt, those newly recruited female "stars" may shoot across the sky and burn out just as their talent is at its height. The Cheaper Sex is available from WJ by telephoning 0171-274 2413. MORI On-Line interviewed a random sample of 531 journalists by telephone between September 18 and November 5, 1997.

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BOOKS

THE TIMES ARTS

OPERA Peter Hall's new Verdi at Glyndebourne FACING PAGE



The privilege of the newspaper columnist is to stand on the touchline and tell the players how to play the game. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it. Sometimes we yell, sometimes we brood. We clap our hands and now and then we pat our heads, but not too much. (HQ does not encourage clapping). We pace back and forth and change position constantly, but we stick firmly to our task. We are the masters and mistresses of hindsight, the unpenalised statesmen of foresight.

Not coming in on a whinge, but a prayer

It was therefore with great sadness that I discovered that such a paragon of print and a peerless vox populi could stumble. A rare, if not unique occasion it may be — and it was only about the arts and broadcasting after all — but still it was a stumble. Several stumbles in fact, which led me to look closely at his recent article on the arts and broadcasting and to discover — how hard it is to write this! — that Simon did not only stumble on the facts but perpetuated clichés ancient and modern and, worst of all, and here I tremble, entered into that circle of hell rightly most feared by journalists, called hypocrisy.

Smith and a group selected to discuss the arts and broadcasting. Simon referred to it as a "top secret arts summit" which rather overeggs the pudding, but let that pass. He reported that the Prime Minister "listened in silence". Not so. He said it was "a turnout of the old guard". Not so. He said that Sir Richard Eyre "demanded money for opera". Not so. He said that I "demanded state jobs for media graduates". Not so. And all this was in the opening paragraph. In his zeal to have a good bash at that most difficult of targets, the "luvvies", or does Simon now want to replace that with "the bastards", he gleefully jumps on to the tabloid bandwagon. This decrees that all those in the arts ever do is "whinge". Being Simon he ups the stakes and dubs us "kings of whinge". In this toytown world of its nursery language those of us in the arts and broadcasting are



not allowed to "make a case" or "put forward an argument" or "suggest a strategy" or "enter into a debate or discussion" or follow any adult course whatsoever. All we do is "whinge". We "whinge" that the country

would be a richer, happier and more enjoyable place if it were possible to have all children in all schools given access to a musical education and to visits from touring groups across the arts and broadcasting? Guilty. We "whinge" that it is better to have orchestras and dance groups and opera than not to have them? Guilty. We "whinge" about the quality of life as we understand it from our partial and biased position and suggest ways in which it might be improved? Guilty. Those doing the "whinging" are not on the touchline but on the field. But in Simon's simple new world "luvvies whinge", ergo the whole matter is a bit of a joke, a giggle in the corridor. Those of us at that meeting thought the arts and broadcasting and arts education more important than that. No apologies. No whinging. Just thought you ought

to know Simon. And we will keep on thinking and acting on that. Trivialisation is a tricky, even treacherous enemy, but persistence can, I hope, finally squash it. Of course there is no reason on earth why Simon should be a supporter of the arts, of arts policy or of the higher ambitions of broadcasting and cultural education. But now and then he ought to be told that the people he meets at parties and clearly respects do believe in these matters and will continue as best they can to put forward their case. And finally, with the heaviest of hearts and although Simon will still steal my attention twice a week in this newspaper, we come to the charge of hypocrisy. The biggest by far of the moneys distributed to an artistic enterprise by this Government is the massive sum put in place for the Millerm-

um Dome. As readers may remember I went to see it a couple of weeks ago. I was and remain delighted and thrilled by its boldness and style. As a building, I am persuaded it will take its place among the great structures of London. But who, more than anyone, has publicly campaigned for this — sorry, "whinged" for this? Who in newspaper after newspaper, on platform after platform has "whinged" and "whinged" and "whinged" again? Who has "luvvied" ministers and "luvvied" opinion makers and "luvvied" everyone in sight in his admirably monomania? Step forward Simon Jenkins. Simon is a closet whinger. He is the emperor of whinge. Simon is a closet luvvie. We see him as a tsar of "luvvies". Simon's success is an inspiration to us all. We must make appointments to meet him so we can be briefed for our next top-level, top-secret meeting. So, to my relief, Simon remains intact as a hero, the biggest and best whinging luvvie in the land.

And did that pen in ancient time

William Blake's burial was an anonymous affair. He was laid to rest in a common grave, which cost 19 shillings. Three bodies lay below him, and later four bodies were placed over him. There had not been much success to celebrate at the funeral; none of Blake's adult poetry had been published, and his art had not even made enough money for his wife to pay for the funeral — a patron had to pay. If Blake were to rise from his grave today, he would be pleasantly surprised. He would stroll around the Blake Room in the Tate Gallery and learn that he is regarded as a far superior artist than his contemporaries, including his *bête noire*, Joshua Reynolds. He might walk into a record shop and see that numerous composers, both classical and popular — Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten, John Tavener, The Doors, Van Morrison, Jah Wobble — have set his poetry to music. Peeping through the school window, he would see pupils sitting exams on his poems. Entering a church, he would hear his exhortation to sexual and mental liberation turned

William Blake's superb illuminated books are about to be published in paperback. Francis Gilbert reports

into a patriotic hymn called *Jerusalem*. Clicking on a computer, he would find more than 90,000 sites on the Internet, set up by mystics, animal liberationists, enthusiasts and academics, all devoted to his work. In bookshops he would find many editions of his poetry and discover that Peter Ackroyd's recent biography has sold more than 50,000 copies. He would head down to the new British Library and see a sculpture taken from his picture *Newton* in the piazza; inside he would find the huge number of academic books which are written about him every year. He would also see that Tate Gallery Publications, in conjunction with the Blake Trust, is about to publish in a paperback form all of his

illuminated books. In true Blakean fashion, the trust has invested every penny of its capital in the enterprise. Because of this courageous move, for the first time since Blake's death, the full glory of his images and poetry is available in affordable form. It has taken 200 years for technology to catch up with his visionary art. In many ways, Blake was the world's first multimedia artist. He was the first artist of any kind to use the printed page as a total concept, words and illustrations, wholly integrated. Computer technology has meant that his printed pages can be much more cheaply and faithfully reproduced on a mass scale than they ever were, even a few years ago. And Blake would have loved the Blake Trust's project because it is a non-profit one. But why is Blake so popular now and why do people become so passionately involved with him? Ackroyd thinks it might be connected with pre-millennial tension: "It's the end of the 20th century and the mystical and apocalyptic ideas that Blake espoused are surfacing again," he says. John Commander, the executive director of the Blake Trust, feels that the trust may have contributed substantially towards Blake's popularity because it published a number of Blake's illuminated books during the 1960s. Although the

success of the books was limited — they were very expensive to produce — he feels that they were "a significant ingredient in Blake becoming an icon during the flower power period". Blake's advocacy of free love, nudism, his political radicalism and the psychedelic, swirling movement in his pictures and poetry may have led many into thinking he was the world's first hippy and that he was heavily into drugs (of which there is no evidence). But Blake's popularity did not die with the end of the hippy movement. Thankfully, people were more interested in discovering new aspects to Blake than projecting their own ideas onto his work. David Erdman and W.H. Stevenson's edition of *The Complete Poems* (1971), contained lucid commentaries on the longer poems and helped to explain the complexities of Blake's mythology. In the 1990s the success of Ackroyd's biography has brought even more attention to Blake. Now the Internet looks set to increase access to Blake's work. The University of Virginia has set up an electronic archive of Blake's work on the Internet; over the next few years it intends to put all of Blake's images on the Net and to provide commentaries. It is one of the best Internet sites I have visited. Blake's grave, incidentally, is no longer anonymous. Take a walk past it in Bunhill Fields today and you will always see that some admirer has left flowers by his headstone.

Blake was the first to work in many media



The frontispiece from Blake's longest illuminated book, *Jerusalem*, a chronicle of mankind's fall and redemption

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THEATRE: A strong cast fails to overcome an inadequate script; plus a modern fable whose moral is lost in the maze

Sofa, so insubstantial

There may come a time when a tense, sweaty room filled with frustrated men, one of whom is exhibiting strong sociopathic tendencies while waving a lethal weapon, will no longer be the quiddity of contemporary Irish drama. From the evidence of Declan Hughes's *Twenty Grand*, Gary Mitchell's *As the Beast Sleeps* and now the latest of this year's crop, Anto Nolan's *Fully Recovered*, that day is a long way off. Nolan's pistol-wielding siege takes place in the unlikely setting of an upholstery workshop. Among the foam rubber and skeleton seaters, a boisterous gang of upholsterers is engaged in strange macho rituals that seem completely out of keeping with their craft. But nasty, self-obsessed older men, naive apprentices and hydraulic staple guns were always going to make an eye-watering combination. When the staple gun and glue initiates decide to induct their latest apprentice, Gerard, the rite goes seriously

wrong when the boy retaliates by incarcerating his torturers in their own workshop. Worse still, when a rescuer seems to arrive, it is only the lad's brother, complete with full-face balaclava and gun, looking for some less psychological revenge. *Fully Recovered* promises something that is never within its power to deliver. Setting out to examine some of the stranger, more atavistic habits of groups of males — it is hard not to notice that the only "females" on stage are an inflatable sex toy and posters of semi-naked women — the play quickly becomes sidetracked into a session of sweating and screaming and faintly blackouts. Exposition frequently moves clunkily. There are too many awkward moments when it becomes clear that we are supposed to know much more about this little tribe, feel much more for them, than

can ever be possible with Nolan's undernourished characterisations. Lurking just off-stage, Nolan loosely suggests, is a world of drug dealing, thieving and arson, but the playwright never manages to connect with it. Nevertheless, the ensemble cast works well with this unfulfilled material. Mick Nolan's slowly backsliding alcoholic, Les Martin's chippy, violently insecure Stevo and Stephen Donne's hyperventilating gunman, Frankie, are highly watchable, if never quite out of the clutches of cliché. Karl Shiels, whose lank, bearded Lemmie has a sense of fair play matched only by his ability to unleash chilling threats on those who cross him, is the only one who finds a vigorous, life under the banner and the oddly mechanical interchanges. Alan Archbold's director, which keeps large sections of interwoven movement flowing smoothly, settles for an easy way out once too often.

LUKE CLANCY

Petty polly

gazing at the portrait of a slim youth. If the production by Hans-Peter Kellner does occasionally occupy real ground this is largely because of the performance by Mark Katz as the urgent plumber. Only the contrivance of the plot obliges him to bring his letter to a man plainly out of sympathy with all he represents, but Katz presents him as a man armed with implacable re-

solve naive but not to be swayed from a decision. I only ever believed in Geoffrey Towers's Lovestar when his behaviour was ludicrous; when, for example, he used a knife and fork to lift one cherry tomato off a dish. Manet obliges him to score off his visitor in ways no genuine man of letters would, but Towers finds no way to make this acceptable. As for there having been any genuine passion in his past, more than a vast speech inspired by the slim youth's image is needed to make this look remotely possible, and in its absence the play's final hopes are hollow. JEREMY KINGSTON

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مكتبة الأهل

Offender of the faiths

Although he is best known as the author of quirky gonzo detective novels, Kinky Friedman is also the world's most politically incorrect country singer.

POP Kinky Friedman

Whelan's, Dublin

not berate the self-styled Kinkster. Putting down his acoustic guitar for a well-timed literary interlude, Friedman, with Cuban cigar in hand and his trademark black cowboy hat on head, read from one of his highly humorous novels, all of which, it is said, take pride of place on Bill Clinton's bookshelf.

NICK KELLY



Amelia (Elena Prokina) comforts the dying Simon (Giancarlo Pasqueto) in Peter Hall's 'slightly puritanical' production of Simon Boccanegra

Partial reconciliation

Glyndebourne has always had a slightly uneasy relationship with Verdi. Falstaff is, of course, the perfect Glyndebourne opera, which they have played near-continuously, and it was part of a planned cycle with Bernard Haitink and Peter Hall in the 1980s.

OPERA Simon Boccanegra

Glyndebourne

both that aria and the whole role. Within the context of Hall's slightly puritanical approach and John Gunter's dramatic, darkly lit sets, a defiantly operatic visual 'coup' at the final curtain looked almost camp.

So the burden of communication of the work's power fell more than usually on the shoulders of the soloists. No problem in that respect with Elena Prokina (Amelia). She sings like an angel, especially in perfectly controlled half-voice high above the stage - perfect for the Council Chamber scene - and her dynamic range from a thread of sound to metesome, truly Verdian forte is as near-unique today as her acting skill.

able spiritual beauty. One other singer matched her in vividness of character and variety of utterance, Peter Sidhom as the Iago-ish Paolo, and as can so often happen, a good Paolo nearly steals the show from Boccanegra, in this case the somewhat phlegmatic, frankly undercast Giancarlo Pasqueto - his turning was uncomfortably wayward on Saturday.

RODNEY MILNES

Classic comics no laughing matter

A FEW adjustments here and there and this could have been a thoroughly memorable addition to John Peel's Meltdown series. After all, no evening constructed around two short Laurel and Hardy silent comedies could ever be described as a disappointment.

The Beau Hunks

Queen Elizabeth Hall

devising an ingenious but doomed attempt to escape from their domestic duties. Their Purple Moment turns on a similar theme, the friends this time escaping to a nightclub with two would-be vamps and then facing the consequences of not being able to pay the bill.

You could argue, of course, that the whole idea of exhuming vintage Laurel and Hardy scores is wildly eccentric anyway. Not so. While they do not measure up to the grandeur of, say, Charlie Chaplin's masterpiece City Lights - revived on a lavish scale some years ago - LeRoy Shield and Marvin Hatley's tunes still come across as amiable period pieces, tinged with foxglove and pithy, Bix Beiderbecke-like trumpet and saxophone breaks.

A little more levity would have been welcome. Schreuders - who is obviously doing sterling work in this field - exuded the dusty manner of an emeritus professor of hieroglyphics. A hint of unintentional comedy did ensue at the encore, however. Sive's failing to return and leaving the musicians to fend for themselves by going back to the beginning of the programme, Laurel and Hardy would surely have enjoyed that.

CLIVE DAVIS

OF ALL the young singers who regularly visit the Wigmore Hall, Angelika Kirchschlager has, in recent years, been one of the most exciting to track. On each successive visit to London the voice has moved into a new stage in its evolution - and now it has opened out into full and lustrous bloom.

With lustre to muster

RECITAL Kirchschlager/Deutsch

Wigmore Hall

breathless lines of Delphine, or in the Freudtoll and the Leidvoll - in the joy and the sorrow - of Goethe's Die Liebe, Kirchschlager and her accompanist Helmut Deutsch pitted themselves against each other in expressive virtuosity.

his six Lieders to poems by Gottfried Keller. In these audacious little rural character pieces Kirchschlager's voice glinted like the chain-mail of the noble warrior, sang like the nightingale, and lurched with the drunken charcoal-burner's wife.

ful focal point in a recital which was promoted by the Festival of Central European Culture. Concentrated passion and tender unceasing joy coiled within the chromatic harmonies of Warning and Verlassen. And the voice stretched out towards the 12 tones of Schoenberg's future in the haunting tale of Jane Grey.

HILARY FINCH

This week in THE TIMES



DANCE Viviana Durante leads the Royal Ballet into the Coliseum in La Bayadere OPENS: Tomorrow REVIEW: Thursday



CONCERT The multi-talented Thomas Ades premieres Ligeti's For Irina in Cheltenham CONCERT: Tomorrow REVIEW: Thursday



FILM Aidan Gillen gets more than a milkshake in Jez Butterworth's Mojo RELEASED: Friday REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE Denis Quilley stars as Racing Demon is revived at Chichester OPENS: Tomorrow REVIEW: Thursday PLUS: Guo Wenjing's new opera Night Banquet at the Almeida on Friday

ART GALLERIES AND THEATRES listings for the week of July 6, 1998, including venues like Anderson Gallery and Apollo Victoria.

THEATRES listings for the week of July 6, 1998, including venues like the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

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ART GALLERIES listings for the week of July 6, 1998, including venues like Gordon Reece Galleries and Antique India.

Are we a land fit for heroes?

Roger Scruton sees a disturbing contrast between Czech and English icons

Shortly before the recent elections in which the Czechs surprised the pundits by voting in large numbers for the parties of the Centre-Right, Lidove Noviny, the national daily, asked its readers to nominate the greatest Czech of the 20th century. The results of the poll give an interesting insight into that faraway country of which we know nothing - to quote words uttered by Neville Chamberlain, as he betrayed that faraway country to the Nazis.

Top of the poll came Masaryk, the philosopher-statesman who was first Czechoslovak President. Not a surprising choice. Given Masaryk's achievement in envisaging and creating what was to be the most prosperous state in Central Europe. A close second was Karel Capek, - neither a politician, nor a sportsman, but a writer, whose gently ironic novels celebrate the undiscovered life of ordinary people. Vaclav Klaus, the former Prime Minister whom the pundits had consigned to the dust-heap of history, was third, with President Havel beaten into fifth place by Cardinal Tomasek, the Catholic primate who unceasingly reminded the Czechs and Slovaks that Christians cannot be communists.

In sixth place, but a long way behind Havel, came Janacek, with the poet Jaroslav Seifer next.

Only one sportsman made it into the top 30, and that was the runner Emil Zatopek, whose Olympic triumphs date from the early Fifties. Not a footballer or racing driver on the list, nor a pop singer or film star, and only one industrialist, Tomas Bata, known in his homeland for charitable works rather than shoes. Of the rest, most were cultural heroes - writers, composers, conductors or anti-communist martyrs.

I read the results with astonishment. Here is a nation which defines itself not by its stars but by its culture. Even statesmen such as Masaryk and Havel owe their position on the list to their intellectual standing. It is as though the readers of a London broadsheet were to nominate Winston Churchill as the greatest Englishman of the century, and after him Auden, Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, Vaughan Williams, Britten and Kathleen Ferrier, with Sir Stanley Matthews as a concession to sport and Baroness Thatcher as the sole acknowledgement of recent politics. In fact a similar questionnaire in Britain would see Diana, Princess of Wales, at the top of the list, and after her the pop and piffle industry, with football as the dominant item. Neither religion nor culture would get a look-in. Indeed, as a nation we no longer know what culture means.

We have an educated elite, and the best universities in Europe. Literary journals such as the TLS, Agenda and the

The Democrats' heart-searching over their target voters has a profound significance for British politics

This distant battle Labour can't ignore

In 1992 Stan Greenberg was a leading pollster for the Democrats; his advice was credited with an important part in Bill Clinton's first presidential victory. After the Democrats' disastrous mid-term results in the congressional elections of 1994, Mr Greenberg was replaced by Mark Penn, who helped to produce the victory of 1996. Now a heated debate has broken out between the two men, which will certainly influence the Democrats' campaign this autumn; beyond that it may shape the party's strategy for the presidential election in the year 2000.

This debate splits the "new Democrats" from the more old-fashioned "liberal" wing of the party. It turns on whether the main target voters should be the working class, without college degrees, or higher income, more highly educated, suburban groups. Of course all voters are always welcome. Mr Greenberg believes that Mr Penn has been misled by the "mythology of Centrism". Mr Penn argues in reply that the Democrats must project "optimism and confidence", not "class warfare", and says that social trends are clearly in favour of his middle-class strategy.

This is just as important for the Labour Party as for the Democrats. There is a close transatlantic liaison between the two parties; Tony Blair's new Labour strategy was modelled on the success of Bill Clinton's campaigns of 1992 and 1996. Stan Greenberg himself is said by *The Wall Street Journal* to have the Labour Party as one of his clients, though Tony Blair's strategy seems closer to that of Mark Penn.

In the United States, the immediate issue is welfare reform. Last Thursday Vice-President Al Gore took the chair at a conference on social security reform in Providence, Rhode Island. As he will be a very strong

candidate for the Democratic nomination in the 2000 election, this conference could decide the Democratic platform. Mr Penn's surveys show that 70 per cent of Americans would support a two-tier pension system, with a basic retirement pension and a higher level of individually controlled savings.

Mr Greenberg counter-argues that Mr Penn has got his polling wrong, because he is asking the question in the wrong form. Before his pollsters ask the Greenberg question, they point out some of the potential drawbacks of a two-tier system; that it might be a threat to the basic pension, and the stock markets can go down as well as up. After listing these disadvantages, his pollsters found that only 33 per cent supported the two-tier pension. Al Gore's main rival for the nomination, Richard Gephardt, the leader of the Democrats in the House of Representatives, is likely to adopt this Greenberg analysis. This may become a big issue in the Democratic primaries.

The debate, and its outcome, could decide both the future of the Democrats and of new Labour. In Britain the commanding heights of the welfare state are still largely controlled by ministers who are traditional rather than new Labour in their thinking. Even in welfare reform, Harriet Harman is no crusader, and Frank Field is having

difficulty winning support for his new ideas. Frank Dobson has not adopted any radical reform for the National Health Service. So far, Tony Blair's administration has been radical in constitutional reform, but not radical, if not actually old Labour, in welfare, health and education.

Almost certainly, polling in Britain similar to that in America would show that this caution is justified. Mr Penn is right to state that the social trends towards affluent suburban living are very strong in the United

States, and stronger in Scotland than in England. The main political opposition to Labour in Scotland comes from the aggressive and self-confident Scottish National Party, not from the shellshocked Conservatives. If radical new Labour policies were to alienate the Scottish working class, that could give the SNP a decisive opportunity.

The Greenberg analysis also underlines the likely political consequences of the threatened recession: the American economy is also slowing. In Britain it looks like the recession of the early 1980s, also caused by an overvalued pound, which hit the manufacturing North much harder than the services in the South. In the early 1990s, the recession hit the high street and was at its worst in the South of England. The new recession could coincide with next year's elections for the Scottish parliament.

The strategic decision which has to be taken between the Penn and Greenberg arguments is therefore more difficult in Britain than in the United States. For Bill Clinton, the Greenberg argument does not really add up. The Democrats can win only if they win in the Centre. They have to gain the support of affluent middle-class voters, particularly in the key states of California and Texas. In the United Kingdom, the same may be true of England, where the main

opposition comes from the Right. In Scotland, the main opposition is now from the Left. Old Labour voters in Scotland have a real choice; if they feel like making a protest, they can vote SNP. The need to defeat the SNP must tend to pull Labour policy to the Left.

Obviously Tony Blair and Gordon Brown want to repair their 1997 triumph of appealing simultaneously to the working-class and middle-class voters. Yet both Greenberg and Penn are arguing that one or the other has to be given priority. Greenberg argues that even in America the Democrats need to court the working-class vote if they are to win. That may be the wrong strategy for Clinton; it may even be the wrong strategy for Labour in England; yet it may be a necessary strategy if Labour is to fight off the SNP challenge in Scotland.

Only Mr Blair and Mr Brown can really know what their relationship is like. All political history suggests that they cannot afford to quarrel, but there are bound to be political and personal stresses. The Greenberg-Penn choice of strategy is one which they will have to make together. Mr Brown has much the closer connection with Scotland; he is new Labour, but he is also Scottish Labour. As the strongest argument for the Greenberg strategy is the need to prevent Glasgow voters deserting Labour for the SNP, Mr Brown is under the greater pressure to move in that direction.

Correspondingly, the new Labour voters of the South of England are now Mr Blair's core constituencies. These are real political issues, perhaps of a decisive kind, which have to be resolved both by the Democrats in the United States, and by Labour in Britain.

We would probably choose Diana, and the pop and piffle industry

It is perhaps too late to learn from the Czech example. But one point needs to be emphasized. It was not professional football that helped the Czechs through their half-century of suffering. On the contrary, football was a communist tool, incessantly used to conscript the loyalties of working people. In their life-and-death struggle for survival the Czechs were sustained by their consciousness of history, and by their religious and cultural inheritance. The list of national heroes celebrates a culture which, because it testified to the moral life in the midst of cynicism, was forced underground, where it flourished in new and marvellous ways. And that is why, when clouds of oppression cleared, it was a forbidden playwright who was the obvious choice for President.

The English have not yet been tried as the Czechs have been. But suppose they were: suppose that they fell under an oppressive foreign power, determined to set them one against the other, to abolish loyalty, and to create the kind of atomised society that lends itself to totalitarian control? What would remind the English then of their real togetherness, of the national identity without which their trial could not be survived? Football? The Spice Girls? Those school history lessons, in which they learn to empathise with Chartists and feel guilty about the slave trade? These are interesting questions.

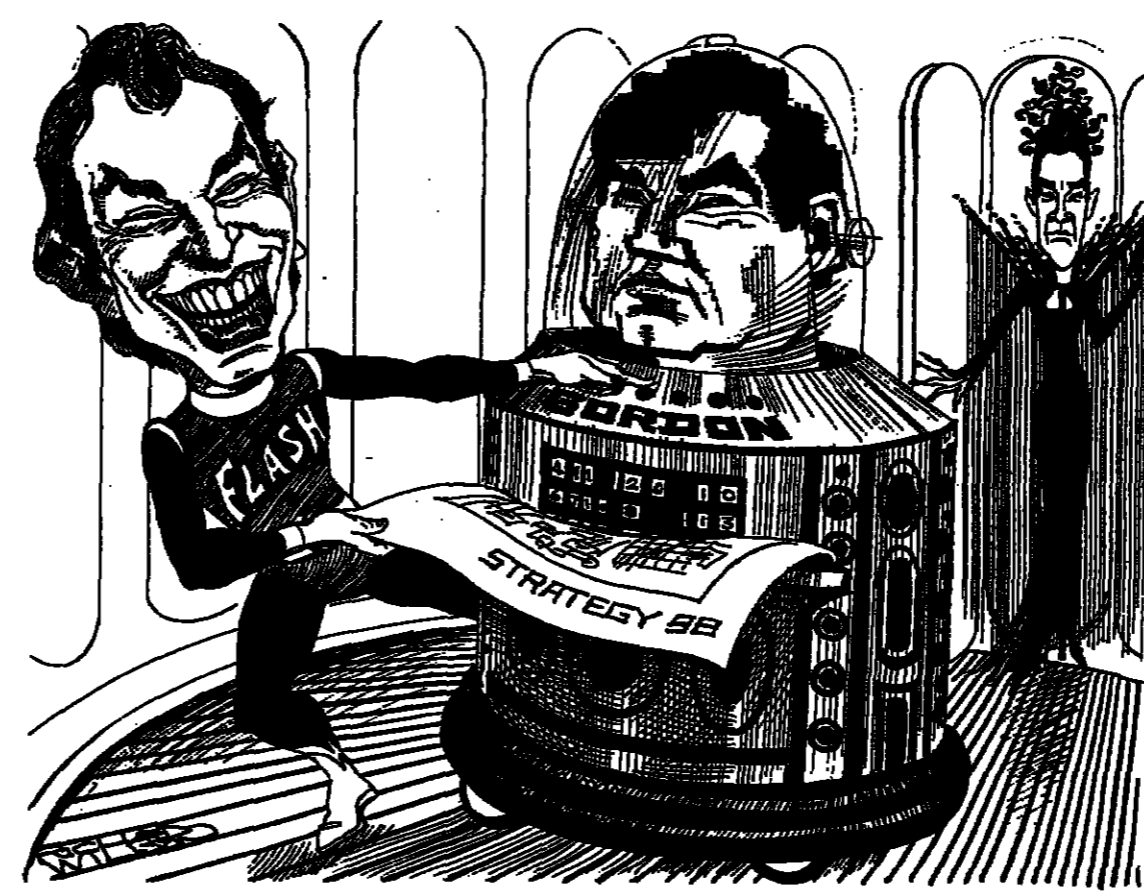
Talk of a Brown-Blair rift is way off the mark, says Peter Riddell

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown agree on the main thrust of economic and European policy. And so does Peter Mandelson, for that matter. This central, and crucial, point has been largely lost in the latest rash of stories about feuding between the Blair and Brown camps and jockeying for position ahead of this month's reshuffle. Such infighting undoubtedly exists and is very damaging; no headlines worry Mr Blair more than those suggesting new tensions with his Downing Street neighbour.

Worryingly for both, the latest allegations are not just about the gossip of courtiers, but have broadened out to include supposed differences over policy. From the Left, notably in *The Observer*, it is argued that a neo-liberal/free market group around Mr Blair is clashing with the more truly Labour Mr Brown, who still cares for the interests of the poor and is not afraid to use the word "socialist". From the Right, most succinctly in Irwin Stelzer's recent *Spectator* article, Mr Brown is accused of pushing a reluctant Mr Blair towards the euro and of taking an old Labour attitude to public spending and equality.

Both charges are wildly off target. Mr Blair and Mr Brown have the same view about Britain's approach to a single currency. Nothing of substance changed at the Cardiff summit last month - and the subsequent cries of alarm and shock by *The Sun* and Mr Stelzer were wholly out of proportion and partly represented an attempt to drive a wedge between the Prime Minister and Chancellor.

In reality, both agree that a period



of stability is necessary, both economically and politically, to see whether the euro succeeds and to prepare Britain for a decision on entry early in the next Parliament. Far from being a fanatical Euro-enthusiast, Mr Brown sees the European question in terms of national identity and what he calls the British question.

Indeed, the cautious stance of the two is being increasingly criticised by supporters of British entry to monetary union, who believe an opportunity is being lost by not holding an earlier referendum. They want both Mr Blair and Mr Brown to give a stronger lead publicly now to build up support for entry.

On the economy, Mr Blair strongly endorses Mr Brown's approach, and any differences on details of tax policy have been minor. Working relations

between 10 and 11 Downing Street have improved in recent months, partly thanks to the arrival of Jeremy Heywood, one of the Treasury's rising stars, as one of the Prime Minister's private secretaries. He, and David Milliband, the head of the Downing Street policy unit, have worked very closely over the past few weeks with Ed Balls, the Chancellor's economic adviser, on the comprehensive spending review.

It is also nonsense to portray Mr Brown as somehow to the "left" of Mr Blair. Mr Brown has been strongly critical of the egalitarian views of Lord Hattersley; instead, he has talked about linking enterprise and fairness. In practical terms, this has meant cuts in corporation tax to aid

business and the Welfare to Work package to help the unemployed.

Mr Brown was the main architect of Labour's monetary and fiscal stance, which has been criticised on the Left for being too restrictive. As Jack Straw, usually classified as a Blairite, argued on Friday in his far the most persuasive ministerial speech on the "Third Way", Mr Brown's proposal to stick to Tory spending plans for two years has in practice turned out to be the single most important pre-election decision. This has imposed "a discipline on the whole of government, causing a step-change in attitudes and approaches which might otherwise have taken many more years to fulfil".

It is also weird to depict Mr Brown as wanting to appease the unions when he infuriated them by amend-

ing the proposals of the Bain Commission on the minimum wage to insist on a lower starting rate for younger workers.

Yet there is undeniably a difference of style and language between Mr Blair and Mr Brown. The Chancellor is uncomfortable with talk of Cool Britannia or the rebranding of Britain. He refers to the Third Way, though more in passing than as a central theme. Perhaps the real contrast is that, while Mr Blair likes to emphasise the newness of new Labour, Mr Brown prefers to clothe new policies in old Labour language. His conference speeches are peppered with phrases intended to appeal to traditional party activists, even when his main message is about restraint on spending and public sector pay.

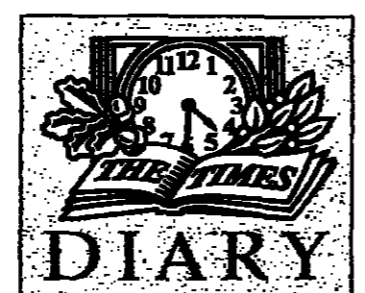
The paradox of Mr Brown is the contrast between his private behaviour and public image. I have always found Mr Brown one of the most stimulating and wide-ranging minds in British politics, always ready to engage in a serious exchange of ideas. But in public, he often appears taut and over-reliant on a few pithy phrases (like the ghastrly "people's priorities"). He is also a very tribal politician, relying on a close group of advisers and allies, and mistrusting those on the outside, including other ministers. This not only accounted for the problems of integrating his team with the Treasury but has also led to the creation of a self-conscious Brown camp, reinforced by frequent parties at 11 Downing Street and assiduous press briefing.

It is daft, however, to suggest that Mr Brown is plotting to replace Mr Blair. He knows that nothing undermines his relationship with Mr Blair, or his own position, more than the recurrent Downing Street rift stories. But to squash such talk Mr Brown needs to curb some of his allies, who, along with the more outspoken Blairites, are poisoning the political atmosphere. After all, as Mr Blair and Mr Brown well know, their talents are complementary in implementing the new Labour strategy on which they agree. Both men are essential for the Government's success, and survival.

Cartoon capers

BRITAIN'S historical achievements are to be recognised in the Millennium Dome, albeit grudgingly. Peter Mandelson has adopted a plan dreamt up by Lord Baker of Dorling, the former Tory Home Secretary, to display elements of our culture at the Greenwich site. But the project is a slimmed-down version of Baker's original ideas, encapsulating little more than an animated history of the English language, after the Dome Minister insisted that celebrations of most of Britain's past glories be dumped. "We will bring to life Chaucer and Shakespeare and explore the geographical development of our language, from the West Indies to today's dialects," Baker tells me. Tony Blair will be delighted his own recently acquired inflections will be celebrated. "Especially English is a must."

Baker had originally hoped to open a Museum of British History at King's Cross. But the plan was rejected by the Millennium Commission for being insufficiently "unique". Instead, he offered his idea to the Dome, but Mandelson (pictured left), keen to "rebrand" Britain as post-imperial and Euro-friendly, balked at many of Baker's ideas. "We dropped the political and military elements," he admits. "They would have been too bombastic." Baker, a cartoon aficionado, has also gained room for a section on British humour: "An undervalued part of our history" - particularly, he might have added, by new Labour types.



Grace over the cornflakes must have been tense.

Split heirs

ROYAL Academicians are once again heading for a bitter split. After the fuss about the *Sensation* exhibition, members are dividing as to who should take over from Sir Philip Dowson when he retires as President next year. Two hats are in the ring: Tom Phillips would like to make the academy more swinging, and Anthony Green, who wishes to preserve the institution's traditions. "Lobbying has started," says Ken Howard, the painter and an academicians. "Members are split half and half." With all this excitement, one wonders when they get time to paint.

DAVID HEMPLEMAN-ADAMS is swapping his sledge and

huskies for more elevated travel. The explorer (pictured), who was appointed OBE this year after conquering the North and South Poles, is training to balloon with the ultimate aim of challenging Richard Branson. H-A is swotting for a proficiency test in the art of ballooning before heading for South America in November, where he will test out his new skills by flying over the Andes. At 41, he feels too old for polar travel. Ballooning is a different matter.

Plum crazy

A SURE sign that communism is dead. Muscovites are setting up a Russian branch of the P.G. Wode-



house Appreciation Society. Bad news, this, for Lenin followers. The Soviet dictator banned books by the toll author, declaring them bourgeois. They were nothing of the sort, focusing entirely on the jolly japes of the aristocracy.

The real cause of Lenin's hostility, I gather, was Plum's *The Clicking of Cuthbert*. "The main character was a bullying, bearded friend of Lenin's," says Iain Sproat, the author of *Wodehouse at War*. "But other Russians were appreciative. I visited Tolstoy's old house, and discovered that his deathbed reading had been *The Public School Magazine*, containing a Wodehouse short story."

AMONG those happy that Britain has relinquished the European presidency is Lucy, David Blunkett's dog. "She has been missing David dreadfully. He was always having to travel abroad." Incidentally, the Education Secretary has written to *Diary Towers* to make clear that, contrary to a recent note, Lucy does not foul the carpet of his office. I apologise to Lucy for doubting her self control.

Dog days

TO Brocklet Hall for Nigel Massey's annual ball. The imminent release of Lord Brocklet cast a faint shadow over the bright proceed-



JAMES BOND's faster cars are to be put out to grass. Two Lotus Esprits, which provided much of the action in *The Spy Who Loved Me* and *For Your Eyes Only*, are expected to fetch up to £30,000 each when they are auctioned by Coys this month. The 1976 model, which starred alongside Roger Moore and Barbara Bach (pictured), turned itself into a submarine. Neither comes with rocket launchers or surface-to-air missiles.

But the peer, I gather, has vowed never to return to the hall, which he had to relinquish on a 60-year lease to pay debts. It was, of course, curt letters from the bank manager that drove him to the insurance fraud that did for him.

Best behaved guest was Sally Bulloch, the manager of the Atheneum Hotel. Readers may recall that she infuriated Battersea Dogs Home by promising guests they could borrow inmates for walks across Hyde Park. To make amends she is having eight furry friends from Battersea to dinner.

Bulloch decided to get in some practice looking after lost strays by allowing a particularly scruffy-looking specimen to spend the night at the end of her bed in one of the guest rooms in the hall.

PICKETS from the white fence surrounding Elvis Presley's Graceland mansion in Memphis have gone on sale in London. Fraser's, a store specialising in autographs and memorabilia, is offering the posts for £375 each.

JASPER GERARD



MODS AND ROCKERS

The real division in the Tory Party, and the right course

The wise politician knows that fortune's wheel always turns, but the truly gifted knows that patience is not enough, positioning is all. When governments decay, as they inevitably do, there is nothing inevitable about who the beneficiary will be. Already once this century the principal party of Opposition has found itself out of joint with the times and then locked out of office for generations. The prospect of accumulating constitutional change, which may blur the hard certainties of alternating red and blue into a new mosaic, makes the future all the harder to discern.

Tony Blair's Government has formidable reforming energy, but its defects are becoming apparent. A taste for meretricious novelty, an itch to intervene, a populism tinged with cynicism and a capacity for feigning all stain the fringes of this administration. The crusading edge to its policies has also been corroded by suggestions of sleaze. Yesterday's allegations of insider dealing in political information could sully the name of New Labour.

But the Conservatives will not be able adequately to exploit those weaknesses until they first tackle their own. A start has been made. But there is still a great deal to do. The most important of the tasks facing William Hague on his return to Westminster today is the stripping away of the comfortable myths to which too many Tories still cling, and which, far from providing protection, only hold them back.

The Tory party which Mr Hague must change is a party split in twain. The most important division, however, is not over the faultline which so many have split ink trying to map. The Tory party is not hopelessly split between Left and Right. Europhile and Eurosceptic. The real division in the Conservative Party is between liberals and reactionaries, modernisers and traditionalists, those armed primarily with principle and those whose first instinct is to take shelter in institutions. If the Tories are to win office, then liberals must first win the battle of ideas within their party. In this internal conflict, *The Times* is a committed supporter of those who lead the liberal charge.

It may seem odd to assert that Europe is no longer a cause of fundamental division within Toryism. ERM and BSE were engraved on the heart of John Major's administration when it was laid to rest last spring. But the real arguments were buried alongside that unhappy Government. Europe, in particular a deep but pragmatic scepticism on the single currency, is now a cause which unites the overwhelming majority of the Tory party. The party's leader articulates an opposition to further integration which is fluent, internationalist, rooted in economics and anchored in democratic principle. A small number of hoary-headed veterans may object but they are a dwindling band, all too conscious of their fading powers.

Sensing the new mood, the party's MEPs have hurried to endorse their leader's position rather than making a virtue of their distance from him. Those MEPs determined to take a federalist line have been punished by party activists only too happy to replace them with younger and talented sceptics. Quarrels do not fade just because arguments have been won. There will still be rumblings over Europe in the future. But they come from exhausted volcanoes.

The more important argument the Conservative Party still needs to have is between those sensitive to changing times and those still inclined to nostalgia. It is a battle, we believe, between Tory Mods and Rockers. In the Sixties the former were those comfortable with change, the latter those who followed faded fashions. It is the difference between those with a gaze fixed on new horizons and those either blinkered or still dreaming.

There are a number of issues on which this new division asserts itself, but one of the most telling, for it hangs on how the party adjusts to the modern world, was the vote on the age of homosexual consent. William Hague has always been a supporter of equality and was one of a small group of ministers who voted for it in 1994. Although illness kept him away from the division lobby two weeks ago, those Tories who voted for equality included young left-wingers with a pro-European tinge such as Shaun Woodward and limply sceptical right-wingers such as Bernard Jenkin. Those opposed to any change included older men of the Right such as Nicholas Winteron and also moderate men of the Tory Left such as Sir Patrick Cormack.

In attitudes to Ulster, a keystone issue of Conservatism, another dichotomy exists. The party is, and should remain, Unionist. But in their responses to the Good Friday Agreement, two Tory sensibilities conflicted. Many of those who were inclined to oppose the Agreement, such as Lord Tebbit, had the honest objections. But their distaste for the devils in the detail blinded them to the prospect of peace. Other Tories preferred to swallow their doubts and wish the Agreement well. In so doing they aligned themselves with the deeper yearnings of the majority of citizens across the United Kingdom. Principled efforts to develop the deal in the right direction are squarely in the Tory tradition. But too strong an attachment to a traditional expression of the Union can weaken the cause of Unionism in the eyes of potential supporters.

There is another matter, of great constitutional significance, which forces Conservatives to examine whether inherited positions or durable principles matter more. Although a reform of the House of Lords should be a trial for the Government rather than a

headache for the Opposition, the Tories have given themselves a raigraine over the matter. All can agree that it is wrong of the Government to remove hereditary peers without also making other changes to the chamber; but after that confusion reigns.

Some Tories want to die in the same ditch still stained with their ancestors' blood. Others wish to emphasise the distrust Mr Blair has of proper parliamentary scrutiny by proposing reforms altogether more sweeping than the Government currently entertains. In this issue, as in others, the simple filter of Left and Right is inadequate. Leftish figures such as Nicholas Soames and men of the Right such as Alan Clark are wary of change while enthusiasts for reform include sons of Thatcher such as Andrew Tyrrie and Heath's heirs in the current Tory Reform Group.

A reactionary stance on the Lords has an appeal for anyone with the disposition towards conservatism described by Michael Oakeshott, who prefers "present laughter to Utopian bliss", and knows that the practical knowledge acquired by following traditional routes should only rarely be abandoned in favour of abstractions. But true Tories know that institutions sometimes become inadequate vessels for the principles and virtues which Conservatives cherish.

The British Army went unreformed for generations after Waterloo out of ancestral piety to Wellington, but true Tories would have deprecated this lowering of Britain's guard out of misguided sentiment. Similarly, the current presence of hereditary peers in the Lords weakens the capacity of the second chamber to hold the executive to account and unbalances the constitution.

A stronger revising and checking chamber would embody better the principles of wisdom, caution and limited government which are the true mark of the Tory. Edmund Burke, no friend of change, sympathised with the American Revolution, because a decayed form of government no longer guaranteed that conservative virtues would flourish in a New World. It is one old insight of lasting power.

The Tory leader knows his principles are popular in a way that his party and some of its old causes are not. There will be a temptation for Mr Hague to march to an antique drum because it is banged with such vigour elsewhere in Fleet Street. Those parts of the Tory press which have stayed loyal to the party, right or wrong, speak for a constituency which no Conservative should neglect. The voice of reaction has a pull on any Tory heart. But middle England no longer pulls on its boots to the sound of the hunting-horn.

Any political party which is to have a hope of recovering must reach out to voters who live in a world of accumulating choice, increasing diversity, diminishing deference and deeper-than-ever scepticism towards extravagant claims. Wise Conservatives deal with the world as it is, not as it should be or once was. They respect the changing landscape leaders must negotiate and stay close to its contours. Having spent the Eighties telling other British institutions that they must adapt to compete the Tories must now make the same transition themselves.

The Tories can do that by showing a liberal face to the electorate and extending an emancipating hand to all voters. Labour is, still, a party which trusts to government first. That government may be re-engineered, modernised, tasked and targeted but it is still a leviathan which squeezes out choice. The Tories should argue not for government, but for people. Not "The People" as an abstract licence for a swollen State, but real people liberated by greater ownership of their own lives and institutions.

The Conservatives should take government out of the boardroom and the bedroom, with a bonfire of business and social regulations as well as a plan to slim government itself. The Tory party could liberate business from a new tangle of red tape and individuals from restrictions on what and when they can consume. Parliament should be saved from an over-population crisis with a cull on the number of MPs and ministries. A party that was pledged to cut the number of jobs for its boys would establish a clear ethical advantage.

The party should find new ways of encouraging a human capitalism that creates incentives for saving and extends independence as well as developing a more sophisticated family policy which supports marriage but acknowledges the diversity of human love. The Tories should resist the reach of the State into family life, recognising, as Ferdinand Mount has pointed out, that the family is a wisely subversive institution which flourishes best when interfered with least. Tangible support in the taxation system but a proper horror of intrusive social policy is the wisest course.

The family is the safest shelter for future generations but those generations should grow up with a widening vista of opportunity. To that end, the Tories should seek to celebrate the achievement of British women, promote them in their party and consider how their lives can be made richer in the workplace.

The arguments are primed. The troops, arranged around new groups and new publications within the party, are ready to be led. The structures are re-organised: now is the time to listen honestly to the new Britain. It is up to Mr Hague to show that his understanding of what modern conservatism means extends beyond the tentative steps his party has so far taken.

Free information pledge threatened

From Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC

Six months ago the Government published a White Paper entitled *Your Right to Know*. The Prime Minister's preface explained that it fulfilled a key pledge — to legislate for freedom of information, bringing about more open government. The traditional culture of secrecy will be broken down only by giving people the legal right to know. This fundamental and vital change in the relationship between government and governed is at the heart of this White Paper.

These proposals are an essential element in the comprehensive programme of constitutional reform agreed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats in Opposition in the Cook-MacLennan joint committee on which I served. The White Paper builds upon the models long ago enacted in Australia, Canada and New Zealand, and recently in Ireland.

The promised legislation will be broad in scope, and subject only to genuinely necessary exceptions to safeguard the public interest. The White Paper specifically rules out a government veto on public right of access to information and the authority of the information commissioner and eroding public confidence in the Act. Crucially, we are promised a new and independent information commissioner with wide-ranging powers.

On Friday, you reported ("Lord Irvine criticises secrecy Bill") that ministers are pressing to abandon these pledges by widening the exceptions to the public's right of access and by eroding the commissioner's powers.

You reported that the Home Secretary (who was a party to the Cook-MacLennan constitutional agreement) is leading the rear-guard attempt to emasculate the White Paper's key proposals, and especially to sap the commissioner's power to decide hard cases for himself. You also report that he has won support in Whitehall for the Bill to be omitted from the legislative programme for next year.

If the Government were indeed to reverse the admirable decisions set out in the White Paper, it would inflict great damage upon its own credibility as a Government, in Tony Blair's words, "pledged to modernise British politics". It would not be a Government wishing to encourage "the free flow of information to the public and to be effectively accountable to the citizen". It would be protecting an "unmistakable convenience and the traditional British culture of obsessive official secrecy". It would be a Government that regarded itself as the master rather than the servant of the people.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LESTER,
House of Lords,
July 4.

Friends of Cambodia

From the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs

Sir, If the international community were to walk away from the Cambodian election process as an exercise in diplomatic pressure (leading article, "Friends in need", June 24; see also letter, June 29), I believe that the opportunity to urge any changes in the electoral process would be lost for good.

You characterise such urgings as "pious", but go on to assert that "Mr Hun Sen responds to pressure". Similarly your claim that "reluctance to face ugly domestic facts has characterised international dealings with Cambodia since the Paris peace accords of 1991" does not hold up to scrutiny.

On the contrary, the international community has been active and vocal in registering its criticisms of the current Government and the violence of 1997. Indeed, the Australian and British Governments, amongst others, have tackled these issues directly with the Cambodian Government, in the "Friends" forum and through our resolutions at the UN General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights. Comment on the persecution of opposition leaders, including Sam Rainsy, has not been "shamefully muted", but strong, sustained and overt.

No evidence is given for your conclusion that the Friends of Cambodia have "given their verdict" on the elections, while the UN has not. Australia and other members of the Friends will be sending observers to Cambodia as part of a UN-coordinated exercise, and if these observers are hindered from performing their role in any way, that too will be considered in their final assessments. Far from having "given their verdict", most of them have not even arrived in Cambodia to embark on their mission.

In the end the Australian Government will continue to urge both the Cambodian authorities and all the Cambodian parties to make the compromises necessary to bring a return to peace and stability, in the hope that the fragile democratic process which the United Nations Transitional Authority first sought to implement will eventually prevail.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER DOWNER,
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT 2600,
July 1.

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e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Prospects for British business in Europe under EMU

From Mr Jonathan Labrey

Sir, MORI's poll for *The Times* (July 3) clearly demonstrates what all the anecdotal evidence shows: that young people, professionals and optimists about Britain's future are in favour of Britain being in Europe, and playing a positive part in its development. Yet the average Conservative Party member still clings to the idea that there is an alternative outside.

The party now needs to start appealing to the mass ranks of the population (54 per cent to 46 per cent) who see Britain's interests closely tied up with those of our neighbours on the Continent. It should follow the example of Kenneth Clarke, John Gummer, Ian Taylor and David Curry — men who are daily holding the Government to account on its promises in Parliament, to the electorate and at European meetings.

What about business preparations for the euro? What about the ERM? What about sustainable economic convergence? It is time that these questions were put and, above all, that the Conservative Party started to reconnect with the young and professional people who wish to make a great success of our future in Europe.

Your poll has done a great service to our party; it has shown us how we can win. I shall be out on the doorsteps getting new members to sign up. That, ultimately, will be the way to change our party's message.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN LABREY
(National Organiser, Conservative Group for Europe),
13 Hogarth House,
Erasmus Street, SW1P 4HS,
July 3.

Health spending

From Miss Ann Widdecombe, MP for Maidstone and The Weald (Conservative)

Sir, I fully endorse the views of Dr Robin Lovday (letter, June 29) who correctly recognises that the Labour Government's panic reaction to its failure to reduce waiting lists would see a reduction of services elsewhere in the health service. Confronted with the fiasco of Labour's "early pledge" and the prospect of taking half a Parliament to reduce the waiting lists to the level we left behind, Frank Dobson is diverting time and attention from other health service issues.

Waiting lists, however, are much less important than waiting times, and waiting times are determined not only by the period spent on the lists but the period spent waiting for the outpatient's appointment as well. There can be no accurate measure of the real state of the waiting lists

From Mr J. M. Meade

Sir, No businessman, or economist, can predict the terms of trade or the structure of the economy 10 or 15, let alone 50, years hence. But the implications of joining the common currency are of this long-term order: in the absence of any agreed process by which a participant can pull out, we must assume that our chances of doing so on any reasonably advantageous terms are negligible. Effectively, there is no way out.

And we cannot rely on the idea that, once in, we would be able to influence matters to the benefit of the British economy — the ways in which our economy, our history and our world outlook differ from those of Europe in general would ensure that we would remain the odd man out, pushed to the margins. With no way out, it should be unthinkable that we should go in. Politicians who do not understand this are dangerous indeed.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. MEADE,
Manor Farm House, Hedenham,
Bungay, Suffolk NR35 2DG,
July 3.

From Sir David Price

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky ("The pound is political", June 23) is quite right. Put in the simplest terms, a single currency requires a single monetary policy, but a single monetary policy is inseparable from a single economic policy. A single economic policy requires a single government, which in a democracy should be answerable to a single electorate.

Do any of these criteria prevail at present in the European Union?

Clearly, no. Therefore we must either reject membership of the EMU, as I do, or embrace the full federal consequences of joining. There is no "third way".

Yours truly,
DAVID PRICE,
Forest Lodge, Moonhills Lane,
Beaulieu, Hampshire SO42 7YW,
June 25.

From Mr Robert Holton

Sir, If having a distinct culture and economy are good reasons for having a separate currency why do I, living in the South East of England, have to share a currency with far-flung regions of these islands? Presumably it is because I and those living elsewhere are prepared to sink our differences and make certain compromises for the common good.

As an ordinary citizen I do not care who determines my taxes or where the rates are set. I am only concerned that "best practice" is applied. Postwar developments in Europe so far can only give rise to hope whilst the recent thuggery associated with football should underline the need to draw closer to our neighbours.

Francis Maudie, the Shadow Chancellor, interviewed on the radio on June 24, conceded that EMU might well be successful "in the medium term". Does the Tory party seriously advocate sitting on the fence through to the long term?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HOLTON,
Erin House, Nightingales Lane,
Chalfont St Giles,
Buckinghamshire HP8 4SR,
July 1.

Irish engagements

From Mr Mark Corby

Sir, Your leading article today is incorrect ("Heretic in defeat?"; the British did not win the Battle of Fontenoy. Despite a spirited performance, they were roundly defeated by the French, under the command of Maurice, Comte de Saxe. The Irish Brigade of the French Army played a prominent part in the defeat, which led to the fall of Tournai and most of the Austrian Netherlands, during the next four months.

Captured British Colours from this victory were on display in Notre Dame until the French Revolution. The caption on the photograph of the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, with his French counterpart at Thiepval, must also be an error. Surely they were not commemorating "the end of the First World War", which falls on November 11 next, but rather the 82nd anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme.

By sheer coincidence it was Irishmen again, from the Ulster Division, who so distinguished themselves on July 1, 1916, at Thiepval Wood.

Yours faithfully,
MARK CORBY,
38 Rollcourt Avenue, SE24 0EA,
July 2.

Wellington's army

From Mr L. J. Melhuish

Sir, According to Hector Bolitho (*The Gallant Third*, John Murray, 1963), the Duke of Wellington thanked the Heavy (Salamanca) Brigade of the 5th Dragoon Guards, 3rd and 4th Dragoons for their effective pursuit after Vittoria in the following terms (letter, June 30):

While many of the regiments stole and plundered, not a man of the Heavy Brigade touched a heap of silver dollars which they passed on the road. General Ponsonby (the Brigade Commander) therefore detailed a sergeant-major to collect all the coins his horse could carry, and later, when the Brigade returned to Vittoria, the 1,300 virtuous dragoons were given five dollars apiece.

Doubtless the incomparable Light Division similarly carried out the Duke's orders.

Yours truly,
JOHN MELHUISH,
1 Minor Canon Row,
Rochester, Kent ME1 1ST,
June 30.

Skills for later life

From Mrs N. Fisher

Sir, Mr Mike Griffith (letter, June 30) certainly has a point when he considers how usefully to educate pupils who are post-exam but still awaiting the end of term.

A straw poll in the staffroom at my school has revealed that the only, as yet, untapped talents of the staff are as follows: lambing, tie-dyeing, ballet, Irish folk songs, gun-dog training, home perms and white-water rafting. Any use?

Yours etc,
JINNY FISHER,
4 Mostyn Road, Bushey,
Hertfordshire WD2 3PN,
neil.fisher@mostyn.globalnet.co.uk
July 1.

From Mrs Jenni Hall

Sir, As the mother of a 15-year-old boy, may I suggest the elimination of the glottal stop.

Yours sincerely,
JENNI HALL,
Dyneley Close, 40 Leeds Road,
Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 9BQ,
June 30.

without both those components being taken into account. We should also take into account rationing in the health service, where it would appear that certain operations for minor complaints have been stopped altogether.

The health service has been looked after for two thirds of its existence by Conservative governments. Whilst I welcome any extra investment in the health service, it is right to point out that Labour has not, so far, matched the Conservatives' average spending increases and therefore it has much catching up to do before expenditure can be genuinely classed as extra. Certainly, the "extra" beds have mostly turned out to be recycled, rather than genuine additions, and need to be set against the cuts and closures programme. Such sleight of hand will only deceive the electorate for so long.

Yours faithfully,
ANN WIDDECOMBE
(Shadow Health Secretary),
House of Commons,
June 29.

ularly where young children are concerned.

Modern blister packs are designed and approved by government to meet those requirements as well as — if not better than — other forms of packaging, but the key element is the patient information leaflet, which comes with the pack.

The pharmaceutical industry believes patients should have relevant information about their medicine supplied as part of the manufacturer's original pack dispensed by the pharmacist. It may take up more space, as Sir David says, but it is surely worth it.

Yours sincerely,
TREVOR M. JONES,
Director-General,
The Association of the
British Pharmaceutical Industry,
12 Whitehall, SW1A 2DY,
June 26.

From Lady Bowman

Sir, The blister pill packs which so annoy Sir David Money-Coutts can be a boon to forgetful people like me. So long as each blister is marked with a day of the week, as many are, it is easy to check whether or not the daily allocation has been taken.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTIAN BOWMAN,
The Walled Garden,
Chamberlain Street,
Vells, Somerset BA5 2PE,
June 25.

From Mr Sandy Gall

Sir, If we are to believe the statistics for the decline of the song thrush in Britain — a subject given rightful prominence in your columns a year or so ago (report, November 6, 1997; letters, November 11, 1997) — my garden in Kent must be a wonderful exception.

Almost every evening over the past month or so, when walking or toiling late among the roses, I have been serenaded by one, and sometimes two thrushes singing long and loud in different parts of the garden — my wife thought there were three the other night.

Such mellifluous virtuosity has transformed a wet summer into a time of at least partial rapture.

Yours etc,
SANDY GALL,
Doubleton Oast House,
Penhurst, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8JA,
July 2.

Declining birdlife

From Dr A. B. Watson

Sir, You report (June 25) on the continuing decline of many common British birds. With numbers falling by half over 25 years, another nine species of common British birds are to be tipped into the category of "high conservation concern", according to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). This worrying situation clearly calls for regular monitoring.

Yet the Government has recently cut funding to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, so that its support for the BTO has been reduced and less monitoring can be afforded. What chance have we of reversing the downward trends if there are insufficient funds to record them and determine the causes?

Yours sincerely,
BARRIE WATSON,
83 Buckingham Road,
Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex BN43 5UD,
ab.watson@mistral.co.uk
June 26.

OBITUARIES

GEORGE LLOYD

George Lloyd, composer, died on July 3 aged 85. He was born on June 28, 1913.

George Lloyd's long career was a remarkable cycle of recognition and neglect. Prodigiously successful in the 1930s, he saw a promising future blighted first by traumatic wartime service in the Royal Navy, which left him incapacitated for several years, and then by a change in artistic fashion which meant that for decades his compositions went unheard. For a time he gave up music altogether, and became a market gardener instead.

Slowly, however, he returned to composing and, even more slowly, his musical fortunes turned. With his health restored and the wider artistic climate transformed, he enjoyed an extraordinary Indian summer in the last two decades of his life. New works were written, recorded and performed. Older pieces were discovered and revived. All were greeted with a popular enthusiasm that was almost without parallel in contemporary musical life. Given a chance to hear it at last, audiences found that they loved Lloyd's work.

It was not hard to understand why, Lloyd was an unashamedly late-Romantic composer. His first love, he once said, had been for the Italian operatic masters: Verdi, Puccini, Donizetti, Bellini, Elgar was the English composer he most admired. Content to mine the expressive potential of melody and harmony in the grand 19th-century tradition, Lloyd rejected the theoretical rigours of 20th-century modernism as a musical dead end. Here was a contemporary composer whose work sounded nothing like most contemporary music.

To listeners fond of asking why modern composers are incapable of writing decent tunes, Lloyd's music came as a welcome revelation. But the populist triumphalism of his noisier champions was no more accurate a reflection of his achievements than the grudging response of the more austere professional critics. Conservative though it is in idiom, Lloyd's music is free of easy nostalgia and pastiche. He may have looked to the past for his inspiration, but his work is firmly grounded in his response — vivid and intensely personal — to the world in which he lived.



George Lloyd at 85, enjoying the extraordinary Indian summer of his long career

Born in Cornwall to a comfortable family with some money and a great deal of enthusiasm for music, George Walter Selwyn Lloyd missed much of his schooling because of rheumatic fever. He went on to study violin with Albert Sammons and composition with Harry Farjeon.

His was a precocious talent. His First Symphony, written when he was 19, was premiered by the Bourne-mouth Symphony Orchestra in 1933. Two years later his career was well under way. A Second Symphony had its premiere at Eastbourne in 1935, and was followed almost immediately by a Third, which the BBC Symphony Orchestra performed.

Meanwhile, Lloyd's first opera, *Lerin*, had been performed in Penzance in 1934. The *Times* critic, Frank Hoes, on holiday in the area, had given it a glowing review, which led to London performances at the Lyceum the

following year. A second opera, *The Surf*, was staged at Covent Garden when Lloyd was just 25, under the baton of Albert Coates.

The war put a stop to this musical progress. As a Royal Marine bandsman Lloyd doubled as a gunner, serving on the notoriously dangerous Arctic convoys. In 1942 a faulty torpedo did a U-turn in the sea and blew up his ship. Lloyd was rescued, but not before he had seen most of his fellow gunners drowned in oil. The trauma and severe shell-shock exacerbated the weak hearing he had suffered as a child, bringing about a complete collapse. He attempted to come to terms with his grim wartime experience in his Fourth and Fifth Symphonies, works which only the devoted nursing of his Swiss-born wife Nancy enabled him to complete (in 1946 and 1948 respectively).

Despite the severity of his illness, Lloyd managed to

produce a third opera, *John Soeman*, about a Wiltshire soldier at Agincourt. Commissioned for the Festival of Britain in 1951, it had its first performance at Bristol. The libretto, like those of the composer's two previous operas, was provided by his father, William Lloyd.

Lloyd's health deteriorated further, and in 1952 he withdrew to Dorset, where for 20 years he was a market gardener, growing mushrooms and carnations. He continued to compose intermittently, rising at 4.30am and writing for three hours before the start of the working day. But he found it difficult to get his work performed and became increasingly disillusioned, seeing himself at odds with a musical establishment apparently in thrall to the serialist and atonal orthodoxies of European modernism.

"I sent scores off to the BBC," he later said. "They came back, usually without

comment. I never wrote 12-tone music, because I didn't like the theory. I studied the blessed thing in the early 1930s and thought it was a cock-eyed idea that produced horrible sounds. It made composers forget how to sing."

Nevertheless, he was not entirely without supporters. Among those who continued to respond to his music's opulence, vigour and colour were the conductors Charles Groves and Edward Downes, and the pianist John Ogden, for whom Lloyd wrote the first of four piano concertos, *Scapegoat*, in 1963.

The tide began to turn, albeit slowly, in the 1970s. Gavin Henderson, then chief executive of the Philharmonia, gave useful support. The BBC, after neglecting Lloyd for years, accepted his Eighth Symphony for performance in 1969 — and finally got round to broadcasting it eight years later. His Sixth Symphony was given at the Proms in 1981, and in the same year three of his symphonies were recorded by Lyrita Records.

But perhaps the most influential figure in the recent revival of Lloyd's fortunes was Peter Kerman, an American entrepreneur and music-lover whose enthusiasm for Lloyd's work led to a deal with the Albany Symphony Orchestra from New York State. This brought forth a flood of performances and recordings, of both old and new compositions. It also brought Lloyd a whole new American audience and, in his own delighted words, "all of a sudden — buckets of dollars!"

Among the new works recorded were Lloyd's Eleventh and Twelfth Symphonies, which had their first performances in 1986 and 1990. Other major new compositions included a large-scale choral piece, *The Vigil of Venus*, premiered at the Festival Hall in 1989, nine years after its completion, and a *Symphonic Mass*, premiered at the 1993 Brighton Festival under the baton of the composer.

The latter work was described by *Gramophone* magazine as "one of the finest pieces of English choral writing of the 20th century"; the *Times* critic remarked, not unkindly, on its "overwhelming retrospection".

Lloyd suffered heart trouble last year, but recovered sufficiently to resume work on a Requiem, which he completed three weeks ago. He is survived by his wife Nancy whom he married in 1937. They had no children.

JOHNNY SPEIGHT

Johnny Speight, playwright and scriptwriter, died yesterday aged 78. He was born on June 2, 1920.



Johnny Speight, right, in 1969, with Warren Mitchell, who played his most memorable creation, Alf Garnett

JOHNNY SPEIGHT's most memorable creation was the monstrous Alf Garnett, anti-hero of the television comedy series *Till Death Us Do Part*. A reactionary, loud-mouthed bigot, brilliantly played by Warren Mitchell, Alf was a new phenomenon when he was unleashed on British television in the not-yet-swinging 1960s. Comedy programmes had traditionally kept clear of direct comment on political and social issues. Speight's intention was to use Alf to mock the right-wing prejudices of many working-class people. By getting the character to sound-off outrageously on such subjects as coloured immigrants, religion or the monarchy, Speight hoped to expose such views to ridicule.

To some extent the strategy backfired, for many viewers openly or secretly agreed with Alf and found themselves taking his side in his battles with his "silly old mo" of a wife (another superb portrayal, by Dandy Nichols) and his socialist son-in-law (played by Anthony Booth, himself now father-in-law to a Labour Prime Minister).

Speight's uninhibited complaints that the series was blasphemous and in bad taste. But it drew huge audiences, was turned into a successful cinema film, and made Speight one of the highest-paid writers in the country. Not surprisingly, his later work tended to be seen as something of an anti-climax.

Johnny Speight was born in Canning Town, East London, the son of a dock labourer. He attended a Roman Catholic school, leaving at 14 and working in local factories until called up for the Army at the start of the Second World War. He spent most of the war in England, but was posted to France after D-Day. After the war he was a drummer in a jazz band before he decided to try his hand as a writer.

His inspiration was George Bernard Shaw. Without knowing anything of the author, Speight had read Shaw's witticisms in the newspapers and assumed he must be a stand-up comedian. A visit to Canning Town library revealed the truth, and Speight set about devouring Shaw's works.

Speight's first writing efforts were short stories and grim dramas of working-class life for the left-wing Unity Theatre. Successful in neither sphere, he got an introduction to radio through an army colleague who knew Frankie Howard and Tony Hancock. He was encouraged to write comedy scripts and supplied material for Howard, Morecambe and Wise, and Peter Sellers.

But those were artists with already established styles. Speight's first original creation was the belligerent tramp played by Arthur Haynes during a collaboration that lasted nearly nine years. During the 1960s Speight returned to the writing of single plays, *The Compensation* and *Playmates*, a double bill produced on television with the young Michael Caine as the central character, were dramas of menace which owed much to a writer Speight admired, Harold Pinter.

More typical of Speight were his stage plays *The Knacker's Yard* (1962), a macabre comedy set in a sordid rooming house, and *If There Weren't Any Blacks You Would Have To Invent Them* (1965), an assault on middle-class prejudice which won awards in London and at the 1969 Prague Festival.

Till Death Us Do Part started as a single episode for

Comedy Playhouse in 1963 and became a series during the following year. It ran until 1974 and in three consecutive years won the award for best television comedy script from the Writers' Guild of Great Britain.

It was revived in the 1980s under a new title, *In Sickness and in Health*, with Alf now living on social security and having to push his invalid wife around in a wheelchair. Though some of the writing was as lively as ever, the show had lost the power to shock. *Till Death Us Do Part* inevitably provided a yardstick by which Speight's other work was judged. *Curry and Chips* (1969) was another comic attack on race prejudice, with Spike Milligan as a Pakistani factory worker, but it was not funny enough to make much impact.

Speight's later comedy series included *Them*, with James Booth and Cyril Cusack as a couple of tramps, and *Spooner's Patch*, written with Ray Galton and set in a corrupt police station. *The Nineteenth Hole* (1989) saw the Alf Garnett formula transferred to a Home Counties golf club. Speight's autobiography, *It Stands to Reason*, was published in 1974.

Johnny Speight married Constance Barrett in 1956. They had two sons and a daughter. All survive him.

LORD SWAYTHLING

Lord Swaythling, merchant banker and businessman, died from leukaemia on July 1 aged 69. He was born on August 6, 1928.

THE 4th Baron Swaythling, still perhaps better known as David Montagu, entered the City as a young man, intent upon restoring lustre to the name of his family within the Square Mile. The Montagus had traded there for four generations but, with a move over into the *haute bourgeoisie* and Liberal politics (David's great uncle was Edward Montagu, the Liberal Cabinet minister who backed upset Asquith by marrying Venetia Stanley), their fortunes had tended to decline. By the time David joined the family merchant bank of Samuel Montagu, only his father was involved with it — and he very much as a sleeping partner. Nevertheless, David himself served a long apprenticeship there — arriving in the early 1950s, becoming an executive director in 1954 and chairman and chief executive in 1970.

His reign as chairman did not, however, last long. By the time he took over, Samuel Montagu was already one-third owned by the Midland

Bank. In 1973 the Midland assumed complete control, inviting Montagu to continue as chairman but in a non-executive capacity. This offended him — "a greater insult has never been offered" — and he told the board of the Midland what they could do with their invitation.

However disappointed he may have been at seeing the connection with his family's bank so unexpectedly severed, Montagu certainly did not have to wait long for a fresh opportunity. In 1974 he was snapped up as chairman and chief executive of Orion, an investment bank set up by an international consortium of six other large banks in order to gain entry into the new European currency markets.

Orion was hugely profitable under Montagu's leadership — only to fall victim to its own success. Towards the end of the decade it became clear that the Euro currency markets had the potential to represent a goldmine, with the inevitable result that Orion's banking shareholders started setting up their own subsidiaries which were actually competing with Orion and similar other consortiums. Montagu, who had foreseen this development, warned his shareholders

that the days of such consortiums were probably drawing to their close and urged one of them to take Orion over as a wholly owned subsidiary. His advice was ignored and in 1979 he once again resigned, though this time for the reverse reason to the time before. It did not take long for the warning he had delivered to be vindicated. Belatedly Orion was, indeed, taken over — by the Royal Bank of Canada, one of its own original shareholders.

Montagu then worked briefly and not too happily for the American brokerage firm of Merrill Lynch, meanwhile adding to his burgeoning boardroom portfolio a number of other lucrative directorships, including ones with J. Rothschild Holdings, the Bovis construction group, and (joining just before the Conrad Black takeover) *The Daily Telegraph*.

The third, and distinct, chapter in Montagu's business career began only in 1988, when he was appointed chairman of Rothmans International, after being a member of its board since his days with Samuel Montagu. Perceiving that Rothmans' two main areas of interest, tobacco and luxury goods, demanded con-



Lord Swaythling in 1988, when he embarked on the third phase of his City career, as chairman of Rothmans

trasting managerial skills, he deliberately undertook a restructuring of the group, which divided it into two halves (while still heavily favouring tobacco).

When his long-running bat-

family's name within the City — if by a rather more circuitous route than he can have originally anticipated.

David Charles Samuel Montagu was born in Grosvenor Square, London, the eldest son of the 3rd Baron — a Liberal peer, more interested in farming than finance. If the young David's father was famous for anything, it was for his success in steering through Parliament a Bill which had made rear lights compulsory on bicycles.

Brought up by his mother, following his parents' divorce, he was sent to school at Eton and thence to Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1949 he gained a degree in English literature, no negligible achievement for an undergraduate obsessed by horses and all-too-conscious of the distractions of Newmarket dangerously near by. As evidence of the independent streak in his nature, he first earned a modest living as a drama critic, contributing notices to (among others) the Press Association, before joining the family bank.

The theatre remained a lifelong interest, surpassed only by his continuing love of racing. He owned a string of racehorses, one of which, Zongalero, came second in the

1979 Grand National, and he made a point of ringing his trainer every day to get a report and discover progress.

His eye for a horse was such that he was said to have the enviable gift of being able to pick a winner merely by looking at all the runners before a race. To his evident delight, he was appointed a member of the British Horse Racing Board five years ago.

Montagu's judgment in the City was no less respected. A wise counsellor of integrity, he had the ability to spot the same qualities in others or, more crucially, to tell when they were missing. He was a natural candidate for the Bank of England's Board of Banking Supervision which was set up by Nigel Lawson, a longtime friend, through the Banking Act of 1986. He was, therefore, involved in the inquiry which followed the dramatic 1995 collapse of Barings Bank.

Montagu had a sharp wit and made a few enemies along the way. But he made many more friends — the former LWT chairman John Freeman (for whom he and his wife gave an 80th birthday party two or three years ago) being one of the principal of them. He loved good food, fine wine

and cigars and congenial company and was able to instil a sense of fun and excitement into any enterprise in which he was involved.

He was a committed but non-fundamentalist Jew — typically he once described himself as "a lobster-eating Jew" — who supported Israel and a great many Jewish causes. He was also a pro-European without ever being a Europhobic, and last year he was flattered at being given an honorary chair at the European Business School.

The courage he showed professionally was reflected in his private life. An operation at the age of 14 left him with a stiff leg and a limp which he endured without complaint. During the last seven years he had to draw still more on his reserves of moral strength to fight the leukaemia, from which he died.

Lord Swaythling — he succeeded his father both in the barony and in a baronetcy only in 1990 — is survived by his French-born wife Ninette (née Dreyfus), whom he married in 1951, and by a daughter and a son, Charles Edgar Samuel Montagu, who becomes the 5th Lord Swaythling. Another daughter died in 1982.

Church news

Appointments

Archdeacon of East Riding
Canon Peter Harrison, Team Rector, Driffield, and Area Dean of East Hull (York); to be Archdeacon of East Riding in succession to the Ven Hugh Backingham, who retired on June 30.

The Rev Tim Barker, Chaplain to the Bishop of Chester, and Diocesan Communications Officer; to be Vicar, Spalding St Mary and St Nicholas (Lincoln).

The Rev Paddy Benson, Vicar, Barnston (Chester); also Rural Dean of Wirral North (same diocese).

Canon Michael Benton, Priest-in-Charge, Millhouses (Winchester); Chaplain to the Queen.

The Rev Jennifer Hill, NSM Curate, Botolph Claydon, to be Vicar, St Martin and St Mary (Leicester); to be also Rural Dean of Wigston (same diocese).

The Rev Brian McQuillan, Rector, St Martin in East and West Lock (Blackburn); to be also Rural Dean of West Wiltshire (same diocese).

The Rev Bobby Magill, Assistant

Curate, West Moors (Salisbury); to be Priest-in-Charge, Hilperton w Whaddon and Staverton w Hilperton Marsh (same diocese).

The Rev Robert Orchin, Assistant Curate, Lelfe Park St Francis and St Clare (Frimley); to be Curate-in-Charge, Romford St John the Divine (Chelmsford).

The Rev Fergus Pearson, formerly studying in Australia; to be Assistant Curate, Pieathlands St John, with special responsibility for Parkstone Good Shepherd (Salisbury).

The Rev Emma Percy, Priest-in-Charge, Millhouses Holy Trinity (Sheffield); to be also vicar of Devizes (same diocese).

Canon John Rezard, Rector, Curate, Botolph Claydon, to be Vicar, St John and St Mary (Salisbury); to be also Rural Dean of Devizes (same diocese).

The Rev Alan Sowerbutts, Priest-in-Charge, Brindle St James (Blackburn); to be Vicar, Read St John w Simonsone St Peter (same diocese).

The Rev Christopher Swift, Chaplain, Wellhouse NHS Trust (St Albans); to be Chaplain, Dewsbury Health Care NHS Trust (Wakefield).

The Rev Graham Whitcroft, Vicar, Lepton (Wakefield); to be also Rural Dean of Kirkburton (same diocese).

The Rev John Wilkinson, Vicar, Holy Cross Aldredale w. Fryston (Wakefield); to be Priest-in-Charge, Cawthorne All Saints, and bishop's adviser for farming communities (same diocese).

The Rev David Williams, Priest-in-Charge, Rochford St Andrew (Chelmsford); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Sutton w Shopland (same diocese).

The Rev Owen Williams, Team Vicar, Bruon and District (Bath & Wells); to be Priest-in-Charge, Kirby Fleetham Langton-on-Swale and Scorton (Ripon).

The Rev Frank Willent, Vicar, Chesterfield St Augustine (Derby); to be Industrial Chaplain, Derbyshire Ecumenical Partnership (same diocese).

The Rev John Woods, NSM Priest-in-Charge, Settrington w North Crinston, Birdsall w Langton (York); to be also acting Rural Dean of Buckrose (same diocese).

Retirements and resignations

The Rev Jeremy Allum, Vicar, Lepton (Wakefield); retired July 1.

The Rev John Brendan-Cook, Priest-in-Charge, Holland (Tunbridge Wells); retired June 30.

Canon Peter Dodd, Industrial Chaplain, Newcastle upon Tyne (Newcastle); retired June 30.

The Rev June Kellam, Chaplain, Central University Hospitals (Sheffield); to retire July 12.

The Rev John Lowe, Vicar, Hackmondwike (Wakefield); to retire November 30.

The Rev Gerald Satterly, Rector, Inston, and Vicar, Westleigh St Peter (Easter); to retire September 30.

Other appointments

Jonathan Cryer, to be Secretary to the Board of Finance, and Diocesan Secretary (Durham).

CALLAS'S 'BENEVOLENT TOSCA'

The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen Mother sat at the head of a glittering audience at Covent Garden last night for a gala performance of *Tosca* in aid of the Royal Opera House Benevolent Fund. Each season for several years now some exceptional occasion of this kind has enabled singers, orchestral players, technicians, and others employed at Covent Garden to work in greater confidence as a result of knowing that help is theirs for the asking in cases of sickness or other exceptional hardship. Last night public support was raised to a new peak by Mrs. Maria Callas's choice of this charitable occasion for the single appearance as Tosca allowed by her doctors, as a result of low blood pressure.

Since more than any other artist now before the public, Mrs. Callas has managed to keep alive the nineteenth-

ON THIS DAY

July 6, 1965

This was the last time that Callas sang in opera; she was to have given four performances, but on the advice of her doctors had to cancel all but this one. Maria Callas died in Paris on September 16, 1977, aged 54.

century conception of the prima donna. The title role in this opera is one that she fills as to the manner born, without any conscious striving for the grand manner. The imperviousness, the mercurial mood changes, the endearing foibles — all were immediately established in the first act, while in the last she somehow managed to shed new light on the preparations for the "mock" execution by suggesting that the actress in Tosca herself could not but enjoy the histrionics involved. In the second act she also had

something completely her own to bring to the part — the revelation of the vulnerable, frightened child behind the public figure. Musically speaking she is one of the few artists with the courage to put truth before beauty when any piece of inventive or violence of emotion is called for; her cry of "Assassin" in the second act and her final desperation over the dead Mario were cases in point last night. Yet she rarely forced any vocal issue, and though perhaps not quite as formidable in sheer volume as we sometimes remember her when in rude health, she achieved miracles of expression by inflexion and colour — the lower register was particularly cleverly exploited in this way. Her "Vissi d'arte" was emotionally reticent — even the conductor, Mr. Georges Prêtre, seemed a little unprepared for such a self-communing style — yet what beautiful, limpid tone she brought to it, and what a shapely line! Mr. Tio Gobbi and Mr. Renato Cloni were again, the Scarpia and Cavardossi, as if were tuning their interpretations to Mrs. Callas's own key.

NEWS

Tory wrath over Blair adviser

Senior Tories have called on the Prime Minister to suspend one of his own policy advisers after allegations that he was planning to use his position in No 10 to benefit commercial clients of a former colleague.

Michael Ancram, the deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, last night wrote to Tony Blair asking him to suspend Roger Liddle, a member of the Downing Street Policy Unit, pending an investigation.

Doctors to seek life or death guide

Doctors are demanding guidelines on how to decide when to stop treating seriously ill patients. Medical advances have given them so many ways of staying off death that they want a clear guide about when they should give up attempts to keep someone alive.

Recession fears

Three surveys have revealed evidence of growing pessimism and a slump in economic confidence among Britain's businessmen, fuelling fears that recession is looming.

Hospital investigates

A hospital that allegedly sent home a teenage girl suffering from a ruptured stomach vein is to hold an investigation into her death.

Symbolic moment

The moment of supreme symbolism when God-and-Country Ulstermen confronted the forces of the Crown happened at 12.51pm outside Drumcree church.

Monty's pay battle

A wrangle over pay and expenses for Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, the military hero of his generation, has emerged in papers at the Public Record Office.

Greens face arrest

A leading biotechnology company is considering prosecuting green activists who ripped up a trial plot of genetically-modified crops.

Prayer call

The Archbishop of Canterbury called for prayers marking the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, despite a warning over the "cult of Diana".

Change to Lord's Prayer rejected

The General Synod has been saved from the temptation of introducing a new version of the Lord's Prayer into its authorised prayer book. It threw out a version of the Lord's Prayer that substitutes "save us from the time of trial" for "lead us not into temptation".

Monumental mystery

Art historians have turned to computer technology to solve the mystery of why Michelangelo smashed the sculpture he carved for his own tomb.

Hague back to work

William Hague resumed his duties yesterday with a little light hand-shaking at the hospital where his sinus operation was carried out.

Kosovo fuse set

The fighting in Kosovo so far involves battles in which bodies can be counted in single figures. Beyond the mountain borders, however, the fuse to a regional war has been set.

Israel under fire

President Mubarak of Egypt, at a summit in Cairo, accused Israel of "playing with fire" over Jerusalem.

Up on the roof

Tens of thousands of people crowded on to the rooftops of Hong Kong's tower blocks to catch a last horrifying glimpse of aircraft landing at one of the world's most notorious airports.

Hebron rampage

Tension rose in the holy West Bank city of Hebron yesterday after three Jews disguised as Arabs went on the rampage on horseback attacking Palestinian property.



RUC officers stand guard as members of the Protestant Orange Order parade outside Drumcree church in Portadown. Page 4

ADVERTISING

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OPINION

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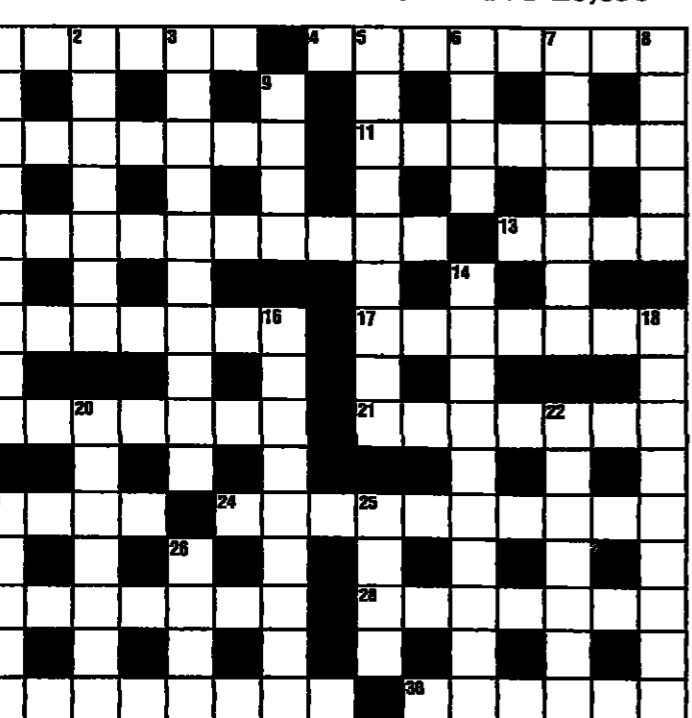


TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

Advertisements for 'HEALING QUALITIES Anjana Ahuja finds that yoga can be as easy as standing on your head' and 'ARTS Richard Cork on Chagall at the Royal Academy'.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,836



ACROSS: 1 Monitor, for example, way girl leads (6); 4 Roughly calculate one sum finally set out in class (8); 10 Rejoice when good young man takes on study (7); 11 A good job for someone if his character's acceptable? (7); 12 Wet blanket left at sea with booty (10); 13 Pig-food an animal owner provided without hesitation (6); 15 Poison involved in scare (7); 17 Sound aggressive, taking a ride in traffic jam (5-2); 19 Level at which no general retires without honour? (7); 21 Transporter returning by lake enters river as ice's breaking up (7); 23 Unintelligent English in such a novel? (4); 24 Way many a leftist shows familiarity with urban subculture (6,4); 27 Source of maize for foxtrot horse (4,3).

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General: cloudy start for southern England and Wales. Patchy rain will clear slowly. A few sunny spells later. The rest of the UK will have a mix of sunshine and showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, snow, etc. for various UK locations.

ABROAD

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, snow, etc. for various international locations.

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but showery and cool. Moderate NW wind. Max 17C (63F). Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: showers and limited sun. Fresh to strong NW wind. Max 16C (61F).

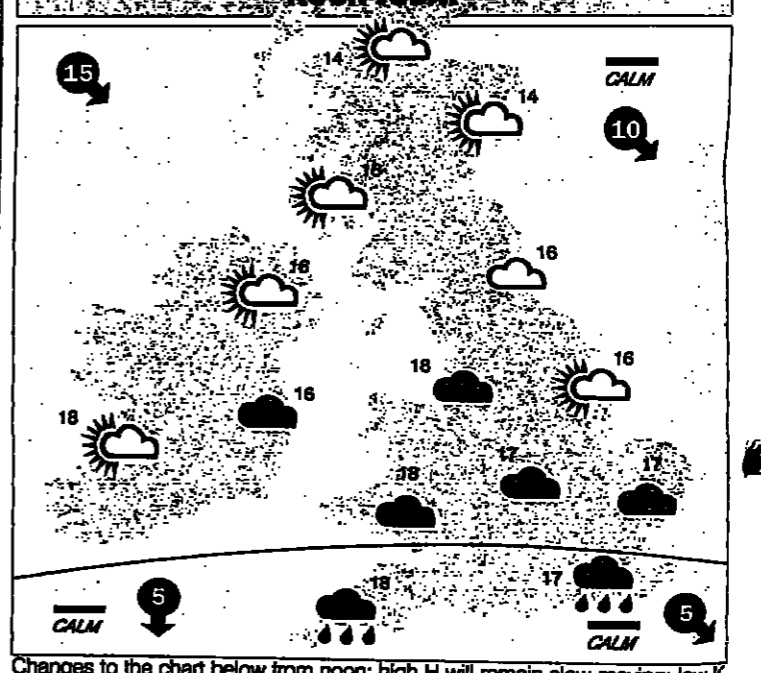
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, snow, etc. for various UK locations.

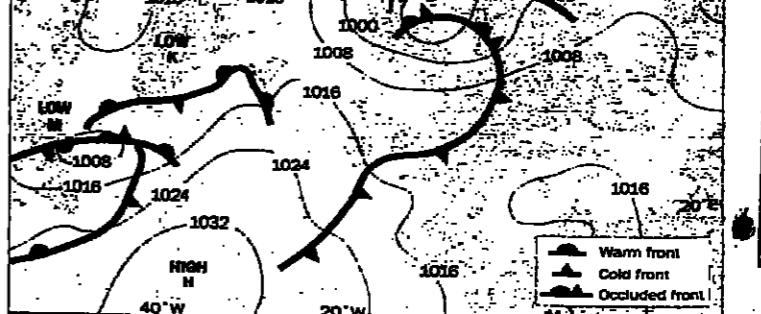
ABROAD

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, snow, etc. for various international locations.

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Changes to the chart below from noon: high H will remain slow-moving; low K will drift E; low M will move NE and deepen; low J will move E and fill.



HIGH TIDES

Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT.

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Yesterday: Highest 13.4°: Graveland, Kent, 24C (75F); lowest 4.7°: Mac Sella Ness, Shetland, 11C (52F); Highest rain: Lutwick, Shetland, and Spedden/Berry Hill, Cumbria, 0.18; Highest sun: 11C.

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 THE PAPERS
 TODAY



The final countdown
 Bergkamp and Suker point the way to World Cup glory
 PAGES 28-31

Testing times
 Stewart and Atherton revive England spirits at Old Trafford
 PAGE 33



PEUS
 David Carter claims a healthy victory
 PAGE 35

Varsome foursome
 Henley triumph for Redgrave and his crew
 PAGE 34

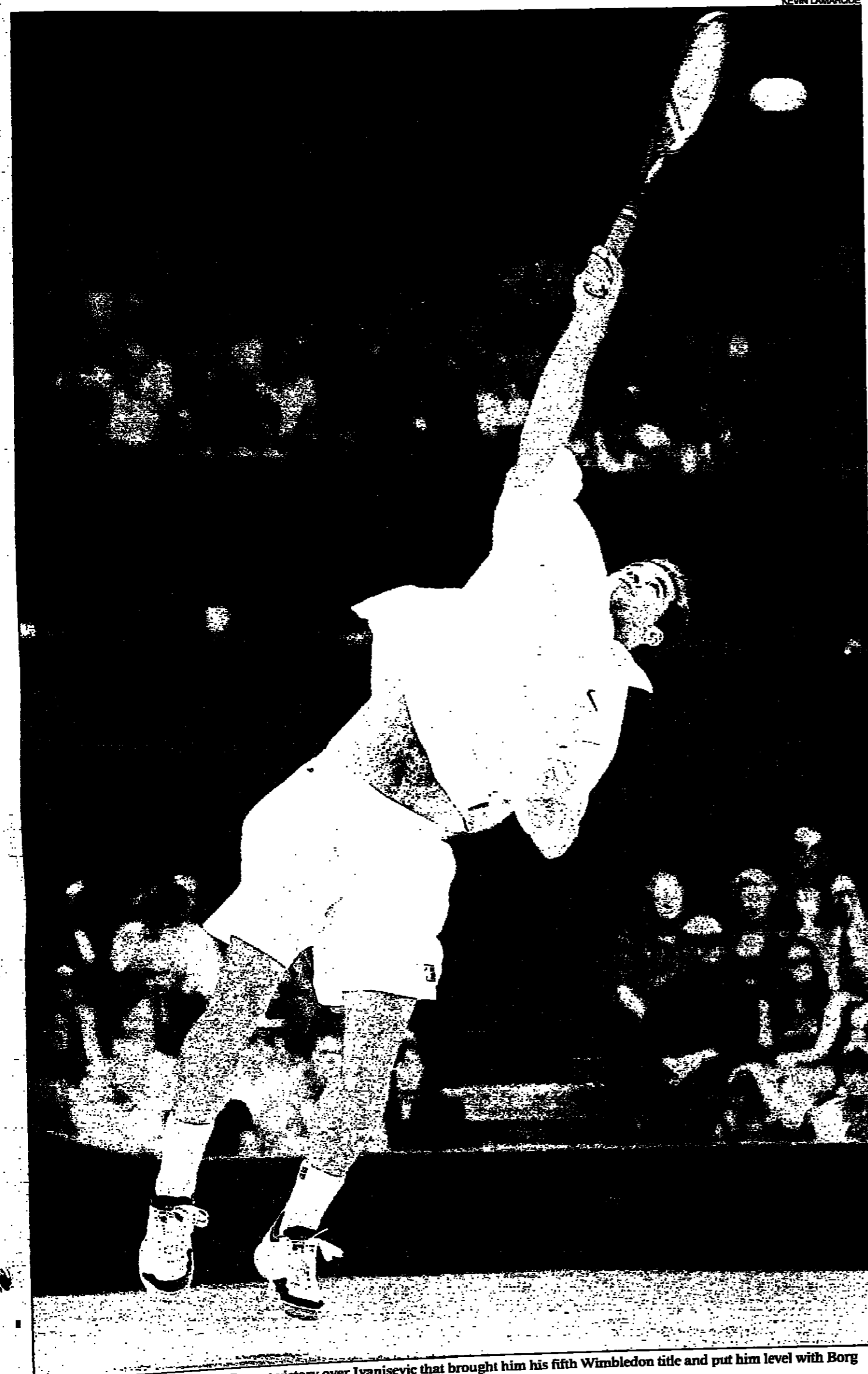


TIMES SPORT

16 PAGES

MONDAY JULY 6 1998

FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BRAVE IN ABSORBING WIMBLEDON FINAL



Sampras equals Borg's record with fifth title

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IF IT will not sit alongside the classic Wimbledon finals, Pete Sampras's defeat of Goran Ivanisevic yesterday will be remembered for the way that Sampras chiselled a route to victory when removed from his best. It will be remembered for the profound despair of Ivanisevic, of Croatia, who was utterly inconsolable in defeat. Above all, however, it will be remembered as Sampras's fifth Wimbledon singles title in six years.

That latter detail is a remarkable achievement. Sampras gained his 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 victory at a time when his dominance had been questioned, and in truth, he was not the force of old. Ivanisevic recognised the fact, which made his disappointment all the more palpable. This was his third defeat in a Wimbledon final and he described it as the hardest to bear.

For Sampras, however, a future once shrouded in uncertainty now appears brimful with opportunity. History beckons him with open arms. Along with his childhood hero, Rod Laver, Sampras now stands one grand-slam title short of Roy Emerson's record haul of 12. His five Wimbledon titles take him alongside Bjorn Borg, who achieved them in successive years from 1976. And his triumph in a match that absorbed, rather than enthralled for almost three hours, allowed him to maintain his ranking as world No 1. Defeat would have seen him usurped by Marcelo Rios, the Chilean who lost in the first round at Wimbledon.

"This was by far the toughest of all the finals I have played," Sampras said. "I don't think I was quite in control of the match. At one point I felt it slipping away. We were both nervous, and I must admit I did get a little bit lucky. Sometimes that's all it takes to win a grand-slam title and it definitely went my way today." It was the

first time Sampras required the full five sets to win a grand-slam title.

The luck to which Sampras referred arrived when Ivanisevic had twice conjured a set point to poach a two-set lead. On each occasion Sampras missed his potent first serve but his opponent failed to capitalise. Thus Ivanisevic remained condemned within the ranks of gallant losers after Sampras finally imposed himself

technique, which often rescued him from tight spots. The American frustrated Ivanisevic, whose powers of concentration often betray him, with a series of pick-ups from well below net level. His backhand, too, made good the deficiencies in his serving.

What Sampras achieved at Wimbledon this year was largely to squeeze the rallies out of the game. An unusually high double-fault count illustrated that he attacked every second serve with vigour. He swung freely at every forehand, every backhand, trusting himself to make more winners than errors.

This high-risk policy won his first grand-slam title since he triumphed here 12 months ago. With it, he silenced those who believed that his poor start to the year hinted at his demise. Sampras has ranked as the world No 1 at the conclusion to each of the last five years. A sixth would see him usurp Jimmy Connors, who presently shares that record with him. As for surpassing Borg's haul, he said: "I saw Borg's five as a kid, and it overwhelms me to think that I have been able to tie it."



Sampras reigns	26
Ivanisevic suffers	26
Simon Barnes	26, 27
Woodies will	26
Novotna's reward	27

in the deciding set. "This is the worst moment of my life," Ivanisevic said later. "Now I have to be motivated to play tennis again. I don't know how long it is going to take."

The two are old foes; Sampras held a 10-6 advantage from their previous matches. He had also dismissed the Croatian in straight sets when the pair played out one of the duller of Wimbledon finals in 1994. The following year, however, Ivanisevic extended Sampras to five sets in the semi-final and their latest joust mirrored that see-saw confrontation.

But Sampras never touched the heights he scaled in winning the title 12 months ago. His service lacked its usual bite. Instead he had to rely on his sound volleying

Sampras also dismissed the doubters who maintained that he was in decline. "I wasn't going to let any wasted emotion overtake the feeling of trying to win at Wimbledon," he said. "You play at a certain level for a number of years and people think that you are done when you don't play that well. It's not easy to play to high standards month after month."

Sampras, 26, will now attempt to match Emerson's 12 grand-slam titles at the US Open, where he has won four times, in September. With the game becoming increasingly competitive, Sampras is almost certainly the last man who will challenge Emerson and that elusive record. "It's great to be in this position," Sampras reflected. "I feel like I can achieve it."

WHERE SAMPRAS RANKS WITH WIMBLEDON'S TITLED CHAMPIONS

7 William Renshaw (GB) 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1886, 1888, 1889
6 Pete Sampras (US) 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998
5 Laurie Doherty (GB) 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906
5 Bjorn Borg (Swe) 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980
4 Reggie Doherty (GB) 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900
4 Anthony Wilding (NZ) 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913
4 Rod Laver (Aus) 1961, 1962, 1968, 1969

GREATEST GRAND SLAM SINGLES CHAMPIONS

	Wimbledon	US	Aus	Fr
ROY EMERSON (Aus) 1961-67	12	8	2	4
PETE SAMPRAS (US) 1993-98	11	0	6	6
BJORN BORG (Swe) 1974-81	11	3	2	4
ROD LAVER (Aus) 1960-69	10	0	0	3
ANTHONY WILDING (NZ) 1910-13	10	0	0	3

Sampras serves during his five-set victory over Ivanisevic that brought him his fifth Wimbledon title and put him level with Borg

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Sampras celebrates his fifth Wimbledon title after beating Ivanisevic yesterday. Photograph: Gill Allen

Sampras digs deep to find inner steel

There is a difference between a person who has won a championship and a champion. Pete Sampras is in the latter category. By this, I mean that he carries something extra with him when he gets onto court. Perhaps what he carries — every time he walks onto any court, anywhere — is expectation rather than hope.

It was that kind of day at Wimbledon. Expectation shaded it against the wildest hope in tennis. Oh, I would have loved it if Goran Ivanisevic had won. It would have been a glorious wind-double for the flukes, after Jana Novotna had won the women's event.

Simon Barnes watches a true champion pass another test of nerve to equal Borg's record

Sampras is not quite the player of old, that is quite clear. There is an ounce less snap in his demeanour, a touch less certainty of touch, an inch more slowness about the court. Not quite the player of old: but good enough. And he is good enough, mainly because of the power of expectation over hope.

though, Ivanisevic was constantly groping for a purple patch, and occasionally finding it. But playing Sampras must be a nightmare, literally: one of those desperate anxiety dreams, in which you keep trying with all your strength and your will to do something, and somehow you just can't.

Ascended the North Face. You could see his own sense of his own fallibility in his quite uncharacteristic elation at taking the third set against Henman, and again when he broke Ivanisevic's serve in the third set yesterday.

Ivanisevic finally surrenders to battle fatigue

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IT TOOK Pete Sampras almost three hours to break Goran Ivanisevic in the men's final at Wimbledon yesterday in a match that could only have been played out on grass. Two men with apocalyptic services thrashed away at each other until Ivanisevic succumbed through sheer exhaustion in the deciding set.

when some towering serving saw him reel four break points. He needed similar resources on two other occasions in the opening set, notably when Sampras reached break point after three double faults from Ivanisevic in one game. Somehow, the Croat held firm.

It was far from one-way traffic: Sampras positively leaked opportunities by his high standards. The forehand volley he summoned when serving at 2-3 and 15-40 was a hope-crushing blow. Yet the American appeared vulnerable and Ivanisevic, who made every first service in the ensuing tie-break, amplified the impression when taking it with ominous ease.

It was time for Sampras to respond. He did so with haste when two further double faults presented Ivanisevic with a hurdle he could not surmount. The American duly broke through, and would surely consolidate his 2-0 lead. Not a bit of it: back came Ivanisevic, a forehand beating Sampras all ends up to emphasise his new-found mental resolve.

The set was back on service, a tie-break beckoned and this time the champion claimed it despite a plethora of missed first services. The two set points Ivanisevic failed to convert seemed to sap his spirit. So it proved in the third



A distraught Ivanisevic contemplates his defeat at the hands of Sampras yesterday

Ambition to reign left under a cloud

Alix Ramsay fears that the beaten finalist's best chance may have gone

Here's hoping it does not rain at next year's Championships: if it does, who knows what Goran Ivanisevic will do. In an earlier life, back when it was raining and the tall and hirsute one was enjoying himself at Wimbledon, he found himself idly watching a replay of his 1992 final with Andre Agassi.

secure and those of a nervous disposition are best advised to cover their eyes. This was the year that Ivanisevic decided to play it by the book, however: keep cool, keep calm and everything will be all right. Against lesser opponents it would have been fine, but Sampras is a different matter entirely. Deep down, Ivanisevic suspects he cannot beat Sampras. He was mangled 7-6, 7-6, 6-0 by the American in 1994. By the third set Ivanisevic had given up hope and was left muttering "too good, too good". This time he knew he had a chance but he could not make himself take it.

Wimbledon finals are strange affairs. For some, such as Sampras, they bring out the best but for the likes of Ivanisevic they are nightmares best forgotten. This was his third crack at the title and possibly his best chance. He had come from nowhere — ranked 25 in the world and with a collection of miserable results behind him — and any pressure was entirely of his own making.

He was a picture of dejection as Sampras took his lap of honour, sitting draped under a towel, head in his hands. What was he thinking? "That is between me and me," he said. The crowd had cheered him up, but he could not face the cameras for more than a moment.

RESULTS FROM WIMBLEDON

Table with tennis results from Wimbledon, including Men's singles, Men's doubles, Women's singles, Women's doubles, Men's over-35 doubles, Boys' singles, Girls' singles, and Men's over-35 doubles.

Table titled 'HOW THE TITLE WAS WON' showing statistics for Pete Sampras (US) and Goran Ivanisevic (Cro) across various match metrics like Aces, Double faults, First serves in (%), etc.

Favourites strike back for tense victory

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

AFTER her triumph in front of a packed Centre Court, Jana Novotna returned to a considerably emptier one as she and Martina Hingis, the No 1 seeds, repeated their French Open victory over Lindsay Davenport and Natasha Zvereva, the second seeds, yesterday. The win keeps Hingis, who won the Australian Open with Mirjana Lucic, on course for a doubles grand slam.

dropped were a warning: Davenport's returns and Zvereva's work at the net were improving, and they took the second set before breaking again to lead in the third. They looked home and dry until a break back levelled the scores at 4-4, and the favourites went on to win 6-3, 3-6, 8-6.

Good as the match was, it was never likely to live up to the final of the previous day, in which Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, of Holland, ended the five-year Wimbledon reign of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, the Australians, to become the first men's pairing of the Open era to capture all four grand slam titles.

play was especially sweet, coming as it does in the final year of a partnership that began in August 1992. Eltingh can no longer train, so intense is the pain from his injured knees, and he is retiring after the world championships at Hartford, Connecticut, at the end of the year.

At 5-4 in the final set, Eltingh and Haarhuis had a championship point against Woodbridge, in the longest game of the match, but they could not profit. At 6-8, Woodbridge netted Haarhuis's return, and history had been both made and unmade. 2-6, 6-4, 7-6, 5-7, 10-8. The kings are dead, long live the kings — for a few months.

Federer builds on solid base

WHILE Ivanisevic and Sampras were slugging it out on Centre Court, their would-be successors were doing something very similar on No 2 Court in the boys' singles final, albeit in a more one-sided match (Nick Szczepanik writes).

Roger Federer, the 16-year-old No 5 seed, from Switzerland, defeated Irakli Labadze, of Georgia, 17, 6-4, 6-4, in a match that conceded virtually nothing to the fact that it was played on grass rather than the hard courts both

favour. But, they probably figured, why change the habits of a young lifetime? In another baseline battle, Katarina Srebotnik, of Slovenia, beat Kim Clijsters, of Belgium, to take the girls' title 7-6, 6-3. Srebotnik, 17, the No 7 seed, was appearing in her first grand slam final, but had earlier, with her countrywoman, Tina Krizan, taken a set off Hingis and Novotna in the women's doubles. The unseeded Clijsters, 16, was a doubles winner at Roland Garros this year.

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Czech's win in women's final helps to compensate for previous national disappointments

Novotna honours her heritage

Champion shows art of taking second chance

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

JANA NOVOTNA duly kept her royal appointment, elation replacing the tears of her previous meetings with the Duchess of Kent. Her defeat of Nathalie Tauziat in the Wimbledon final sated the overwhelming desire for Novotna finally to grasp the title she let slip in 1993 — and, to a lesser extent, last year, when she tore through Martina Hingis in the opening set.

Novotna's 6-4, 7-6 triumph heralded another poignant moment. Her first grand-slam title may have been the last for a child of the former Czechoslovakia, a nation revered for the depth of its sparkling talent. The clock is running down on Novotna, 29. With Petr Korda, 30, annexing the Australian Open for his first grand-slam title in January, this has very much become the year of the ageing Czech.

As Novotna served for the match at 5-4, she neatly summarised the efforts of so many of her compatriots in the game's greatest auditoriums. "Two routine volleys missed, a simple forehand into the base of the net and a poor approach epitomised the Czech tendency to collapse under pressure. Were they artists of the palette, they would all have died broke — only to find fame thereafter."

Novotna was not just playing those points for herself. She played them for her countrywoman and coach of nine years, Hana Mandlikova, twice a finalist and another unfulfilled talent on the Wimbledon lawns. And she played them for her great friend Betsy Stove, herself beaten by Virginia Wade in the 1977 final. Both were on hand to witness Novotna's triumph over self-doubt.

In truth, Novotna was fortunate to come up against Tauziat, another in the twilight of her career. Tauziat, 30, had won four of their eight previous encounters but had never previously advanced beyond a grand-slam quarter-final. Her understandable philosophy on an occasion of frayed nerves was to avoid gifting the match to her opponent.

The standard of play suffered as a consequence. Novotna served poorly and volleyed indifferently, while Tauziat, of France, missed passes she had been making throughout her run to the final. With neither player able to take a grip, there was never more than two games between them. It was as if both had made simultaneously for a doorway, then stood back insisting that the other should go

first. "The whole match was extremely difficult for me," Novotna said. "We both knew we had a great opportunity and this final didn't bring out the best from both of us. I felt that the match with Martina Hingis [whom she beat in straight sets in the semi-final] was a piece of cake compared to this one."

Victory for either player would have made it one for substance over style: one for pleaded skirts over those which barely qualify for their lack of inches. For all the impatient stamping of teenage feet, the so-called "young guns" were totally eclipsed — just as they were in the French Open last month.

Novotna thus righted one of the game's anomalies: few tags are as cruel as that of "best player never to have won..." It has applied with an almost uncommon frequency to players of the former Czechoslovakia before this year. Amid the domestic pleasure generated by Novotna's happy reunion with the Duchess, Novotna's compatriots will have quietly rejoiced when she struck the winning forehand in the second-set tie-break.

Korda himself will have celebrated the moment: Helena Sukova, too. Miloslav Mecir, a unique talent sadly crippled by back injuries, reached two grand-slam finals but went no further. And, of course, Ivan Lendl, whose annual and unfulfilled assault on Wimbledon assumed the proportions of a biblical quest.

There have, of course, been Czech winners. Jan Kodes triumphed at Wimbledon in 1973, when some 90 players boycotted the event. And there was Martina Navratilova — like Kodes and Korda, born in Prague — most of whose nine Wimbledon singles titles were gained after she defected from her native land.

Hingis, born in Slovakia, was named after Navratilova in the hope that she, too, might reach similar standards of excellence. However, the departure of such high-profile Czechoslovakian players coincided with the break-up of the coaching apparatus that nurtured the talent.

Coaches gleefully accepted offers from tennis clubs across Europe. There was a precious commodity to cash-rich nations like West Germany, Austria and Belgium. Few, if any, now remain within the borders of the Czech Republic or Slovakia.

If that chapter has run its course, however, its memories will live on. Novotna's name on the Wimbledon roll of honour has seen to that.



Novotna, top, is overcome with emotion after achieving her long-cherished ambition to win the Wimbledon title while Tauziat shows her anguish as the match starts to slip away



ON SATURDAY

Jana Novotna played a game of tennis for everyone who has ever made an absolutely ghastly mistake. Or to put it another way, the entire human race. The old motto tends to carry a lot of weight: if at first you don't succeed, you don't succeed.

But there is, or there can be, such a thing as a second chance. Life is about a serial longing for the second chance: a chance to make amends, to others, to yourself. The most famous moment of Jana Novotna's life came with her Wimbledon disaster: the way she blew an unblowable lead in the final and sobbed on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent.

Actually it was not her most spectacular disaster. Just the most public. A couple of years later, she blew a lead of 5-0, 40-0 in the final set in the third round of the French Open. But it is the Wimbledon disaster we remember her for: the Wimbledon disaster that has made her beloved.

And so she played for the principle that all of us hold so dear: that there can be a second chance, that a second chance, when offered, can be accepted. It is a subject close to everyone, but then I would think that I have spent the past 18 months writing a novel on exactly that subject: the boldness of the second chance.

That is why I, and that is why the Centre Court crowd, wanted Novotna to beat Nathalie Tauziat.

That is why her volleys caused even more pain than usual. That is why, when she served for the match and dropped her service, it was almost

more than we could bear. If it had gone to a third set, I would have requested my usual by-line picture to be replaced by the most famous painting by Edward Munch. Fortunately, she managed to regroup and win 6-4, 7-6.

Novotna intermittently volleyed like a dream, but alas, she was consistently serving like a bad hangover. That wild, extravagant service action was followed by a pathetic little push across the net. She was the tennis equivalent of the village green bowler: the one who runs up faster than he bowls.

She had a winning lead, so why couldn't she sit back and play the percentages like anyone else? The answer is simple: she hasn't got any percentage shots and she is not like anyone else. She has all the shots, but not a single one of them is a banker.

The standard safety-first tactic of the women's game is solid, deep, baseline booming. But Novotna's stuff from the back is full of

extravagant slice, requiring absolutely perfect timing, and each shot must be played a mere inch over the net or give her opponent the easiest possible put-away.

The routine Novotna shot is the backhand smash, played with her back to the ball: perhaps the hardest single shot in tennis. A couple of shots yesterday were of the kind that no other player would attempt, still less bring off. There was a shoulder-high volley she played after the ball had already passed her, another winner was hot off a drop shot already on its way down for the second time.

No, with Novotna, there can never be any half-measures. She has neither the game, nor the nature, neither the physical nor the mental skills, for playing safe. She is wonderful to watch, but watching her can be unbearable.

I have often seen the Centre Court filled with joy, with disappointment, with disbelief. I can't remember the place exploding with simple relief. We had been spared a third set of agony, we had been spared another bout of tears.

A second chance had been offered and had been accepted. It was, in its way, an exquisite moment. And when she did her victory climb to embrace her friend, muse and coach, Hana Mandlikova, I would not have been surprised had she wished to embrace me as well, and the rest of the crowd besides.

She had got us all personally involved.

She was playing for us all. I know Tim Henman has made a point of saying that he was playing for himself, not for "the nation". He was right to make the point. Sententious jingoism is a wearisome business from anybody, especially from professional athletes. He was right, but the fact is that Henman was playing for the nation whether he liked it or not.

Novotna was playing for herself too, and then again, she was not. We would not watch professional sport if there was not a sense in which the players are playing for us. There is some kind of identity, some kind of sharing in the struggle.

And the blessedness of the second chance is such a universal principle that Novotna came out to play for us all. It was not, to be strictly accurate, all that much of a tennis match, but it was one of the great emotional occasions of the sporting year. We all of us blow golden chances in life: some of us get a second chance. The knock — perhaps the whole secret of life — is to take it.

SIMON BARNES



At Wimbledon

'She has all the shots but not one is a banker'

	Jana Novotna (Cz)	6-4	7-6	Nathalie Tauziat (Fr)
Aces				
Double faults	12		10	15
First serves in (%)	65		68	62
First serve points won (%)	65		68	62
Second serve points won (%)	55		58	52
Points won at net (%)	65		68	62
Points won from baseline (%)	35		32	38
Fastest first serve (mph)	115		118	112
Average first serve (mph)	94		96	92
Fastest second serve (mph)	102		105	100
Average second serve (mph)	78		80	76

The morning after the night before is probably not the best time to start planning your future, but Hana Mandlikova does not have much choice. "That's it, the job is finished," she said. Eight years ago she set out to create a Czech champion to follow in the footsteps of Martina Navratilova and herself, and on Saturday afternoon she saw her goal accomplished as Jana Novotna beat Nathalie Tauziat to win the Wimbledon women's singles title. "That's it, you're fired," Novotna said.

That seems highly unlikely. Between the two of them there is a sneaking suspicion that this could be the beginning of something big. "For me, as a coach, she does not have to win another match," Mandlikova said. "She will, of course she will, but now the pressure is off and it is great."

It was not the best of matches on Saturday, neither

Rich reward for Czech mates

player was on song and, as Novotna struggled with her service — with the title just four points away she dropped it and had to start again — 13,500 people on Centre Court coughed slightly and shuffled their feet. Not again, surely she could not lose the final for a third time.

Well, maybe 13,499 people, because Mandlikova sat, impassive as ever, and waited for the inevitable. "You know what was scary — knowing Jana was the favourite on paper," Mandlikova said. "I knew inside it was going to be a difficult match but people outside tennis, they see Tauziat is No 15 in the world, they think it's going to be 6-2, 6-3."

Novotna said: "The reason I dropped my serve was because I was serving badly

Alix Ramsay discovers that Wimbledon success was a team effort, enjoyed by the coach just as much as the player

the whole match, but once I got into the tie-break I was really positive. I felt all through the match that I wanted it more than Nathalie. I felt that she was maybe overwhelmed and happy just to be there in the final. But I wasn't.

"For me another final was not good enough and that is the main reason why I won. We have been working for this for so long. There have been good times and bad times, but I believed and Hana believed and finally it paid off."

Over the years, not many people have given Novotna credit for her self-belief. Pointing to her great failures, her greatest successes have been overshadowed. But the first thing that Mandlikova saw in Novotna when they teamed up was her ability to fight.

"I thought she was an unbelievable fighter, she would come on court and give 200 per cent," she said. "When she lost the final here [in 1993, against Steffi Graf] after what the media made of it, she could have broken down and never played

another match. Or after what happened against Rubin [losing eight match points from 5-0 and 40-0 up at the French Open in 1995] — she came back to Wimbledon and reached the semi-finals. That in my eyes is a strong person."

"It's something in me," Novotna said. "I have a positive attitude in life, not just tennis. Whatever it is, tragedy, personal loss, whatever, I can always see the future clearly. OK this is bad, but it is going to be better. I see the positive future."

When Mandlikova was winning her four grand-slam titles she made it look simple. The natural skills belied the hard graft that went behind them. When she first started working with Novotna, she had a hard job to get her



Novotna dashed to share her joy with Mandlikova as soon as her victory was sealed on Saturday

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WORLD CUP 98

Heavenly goal by Bergkamp sinks Argentina

IF THERE can be any divinity in the concept of retribution, then it appeared three minutes from the end of a World Cup quarter-final in the Stade Vélodrome here early on Saturday evening. With his blond hair and his blue eyes, Dennis Bergkamp unleashed himself on Argentina like an avenging angel and brought England some vicarious pleasure in Dutch joy.

Holland, like England, are strangers to victory in adversity, strangers to the idea of winning when they are supposed to lose. Like England, they are more used to being victims, to leaving foreign fields tortured by the fact that, like a teacher's most vexing child, they could have done much, much better.

So when they faced Argentina in the baking heat of a Provençal mid-afternoon, their minds filled with thoughts of what Glenn Hoddle would call "addressing the balance" for their World Cup final defeat by the same country in 1978, many assumed their flair would succumb to the greater grit of their opponents and their spirit would dissolve in a familiar bout of retributions.

When, with 13 minutes left and the teams locked at 1-1, Arthur Numan, the Holland left back, was sent off after committing his second bookable offence — a mistimed tackle on that nemesis of David Beckham, Diego Simeone — it seemed as though the Dutch stood on the brink of implosion again. Argentina sensed another victory against a weakened prey, one that they assumed did not have the mental strength of the English, and pushed forward for the kill.

But then, something wonderful happened, if ever a head-but can be described as wonderful. Perhaps it was petty-minded to want Argentina to be punished for the trap they suckered Beckham and England into, but when Ariel Ortega's skull made contact with the chin of Edwin van der Sar, the Holland goalkeeper, in the 87th minute, and the referee sent him off, it felt as though deliverance had come.

It was not just antipathy towards Argentina because in Ortega and Juan Veron, in particular, they had players to be marvelled at. It was more a yearning to see a Holland side fulfil its potential at last. We have already been cheated of a longer look at Michael Owen in this World Cup. We should



FROM OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

be allowed to drink our fill of Bergkamp. Edgar Davids, Wim Jonk and Patrick Kluyvert and revel in the semi-final they will contest with Brazil here tomorrow.

Ortega's own moment of madness, after he appeared to have been tripped in the box by Stam, helped Holland on their way but it took

Rob Hughes 30
Lynne Truss 31

Bergkamp to push them into the semi-finals with a goal that ranked with the collector's items he scored in Arsenal's charge towards the double last season.

He had already thrilled the orange hordes in the stadium with a sublime piece of skill that set up the first Holland goal in the twelfth minute. Ronald de Boer, surging forward past Almeyda and Batistuta, clipped a firm ball towards him at waist height as he waited on the edge of the area. Bergkamp stooped low and directed a beautifully cushioned header across the face of the goal, where Kluyvert ran on to it and chipped it past Roa.



Ortega butts Van der Sar, the Holland goalkeeper

Argentina equalised five minutes later when Veron slid a through-ball past the static Stam to Lopez. Lopez, who had already so embarrassed Stam with his pace that Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, must be worrying about the wisdom of his £10.7 million investment in the defender, bore down on Van der Sar, delayed his shot long enough to throw the goalkeeper off balance and then threaded his shot through his legs.

There was some Dutch finger-pointing but they refused to collapse. Davids fought like a demon, harrying and challenging Ortega to the point of exhaustion, wearing him down and trying to stifle the long-striding Veron, too. Jonk, alongside him, looked capable of scoring every time he moved forward.

Ortega had hit the post in the first half after Frank de Boer ducked under his thunderous shot and Batistuta had suffered the same misfortune midway through the second half when he cut inside De Boer and rattled the post with a rising left-foot drive.

Then, after the dismissals, and as the match moved into injury time, Frank de Boer sent a 50-yard pass over the defence to Bergkamp. The Arsenal striker controlled it effortlessly with his first touch and pushed it inside Ayala with his second. Then, he swung the outside of his right boot at the ball and sent it curling beyond Roa high into the net.

"I told him afterwards that it was like his goal against Leicester City," Marc Overmars, his club and national team-mate, said. "Except this was more beautiful. This was not Filbert Street on a Wednesday night. This was a goal that won a World Cup quarter-final."

More than that, it was the goal that suggested the Dutch have abandoned infighting and are finally pulling together. "We lost to Brazil in the last World Cup," Overmars said, "but now we are playing them again and this time we are ready."

HOLLAND (4-4-2): E van der Sar (Ajax) — M. Reiziger (Barcelona), J. Stam (Manchester United), F. de Boer (Ajax), A. Numan (PSV Eindhoven) — R. de Boer (Ajax), M. Overmars, Arsenal (Göteborg), E. Davids (Liverpool), W. Jonk (PSV Eindhoven), P. Kluyvert (PSV Eindhoven) — D. Bergkamp (Arsenal), P. Kluyvert (AC Milan)



Bergkamp lifts the ball over Roa, the Argentina goalkeeper, to clinch a 2-1 win for Holland in the quarter-final in Marseilles on Saturday

Jaap Stam has come up against an opponent of such tempestuous power that he is forced into recovery after recovery as he tries to ride out the storm. The pace of Claudio Lopez, presented problems during Holland's 2-1 victory on Saturday, but the Argentina forward is a minor distraction when compared with the centre back's true adversary, Stam is buffeted by his new fame.

Dutch supporters sigh over the erosion of form that has occurred since his transfer to Manchester United, for £10.75 million, was announced. As a late developer, Stam has had to complete one awkward adaptation after another to become the most expensive defender in the world. Two years ago, he only just scraped into the squad for the European championship.

When a player's future is settled, the effect is often bracing as his mind is purged of distractions, but Stam's decision to move to Old Trafford has brought no such dividend. At the World Cup, there has been an impression of a man flailing for a balance that he can never quite find. All the same, one can see why a manager would wish to have him in the team.

Stam, 25, has a powerful build and a trenchant nature, even if those assets have recently been engaged in last-gasp attempts to rescue his

Stam trips over lines on the biggest stage

Kevin McCarra on the uncertain performances in France of the defender who has cost Manchester United £10 million

team. What has been absent so far, is authority. There was agitation in his failure to clear the through ball that allowed Luis Hernandez to score the equaliser in a 2-2 draw with Mexico in the group stage of the tournament.

On Saturday, in the incident that saw Ariel Ortega's appeal for a penalty spurned, Stam did make some contact, even if the manner in which the Argentina playmaker plunged to the ground was extravagant. With a more indulgent referee, the episode that ended with the dismissal of Ortega might, instead, have had a devastating conclusion for Holland instead.

Only a fool will draw conclusions about Stam's prospects with Manchester United and he could well prove a great success in the FA Cup. For a man in the disregarded profession of centre half to win the player-of-the-year award in Holland, as he has done with

PSV Eindhoven, is a feat to still any critic's tongue. Even so, Stam has not been at peace in the World Cup.

Those who have attempted to justify his transfer-market valuation claim that he is capable of nullifying forwards who are worth even more. They also point out that he makes few errors. That sup-



Stam: Holland's system has not suited him

posed dependability has not been in evidence in France.

He may be the victim of a change of philosophy. There has long been a wilful independence of thought about the Dutch coaches that was seductive to those of us more used to vacillation and self-doubt in football. In particular, Holland used to be keen to replicate the 3-4-3 system that was an article of faith to Ajax and is associated with the club's triumphs.

It has, however, looked quixotic when employed by the national side and, subsequent to Euro 96, Guus Hiddink, the coach, abandoned it in favour of a 4-4-2 formation. That square-rigged shape can be more compact and appears sturdier since it promises better cover on the flanks. Nonetheless, the pressures placed on the centre backs are greater.

In a back four, there are only two of them and there is no sweeper to supply addi-

tional cover. Stam may be used to that arrangement in club football, but in the later stages of a World Cup the forwards are bound to be quicker and craftier. In central defence, Stam is partnered by Frank de Boer and never looks as if he has much hope of being baited out by the team captain.

De Boer is an experienced player, who fought the long ball from which Dennis Bergkamp scored the winner against Argentina, but does not have the pace that could take him into position to provide back-up for Stam. Hudding figure though he is, Stam, in consequence, can look insecure. How else is one to explain the penalty conceded against Yugoslavia in the second-round game?

Stam reached out to take a hold of Vladimir Jugovic's jersey. There was no cynicism in the action, since the defender barely tugged the midfielder and did not check his momentum. It was more of a nervous reaction, as if it were a comfort blanket rather than an opponent's shirt for which Stam was reaching. Predrag Mijatovic missed the penalty.

Nobody should expect such reprieves tomorrow if Holland do not devise for Stam a setting that will allow him to cope with Ronaldo, Bebeto, Rivaldo and the other Brazil players intent on assailing him.

Calm replaces conflict as Dutch decide to have the last laugh

WHEN the Dutch arrived at their training camp here on a plateau in the hills above Monaco yesterday, they found that one of the row of five dummies they use for a wall when they are practising free kicks had had its head knocked off. Everyone laughed. Those who have been searching for signs of discord in the camp still had nothing to go on.

Holland are past masters at internal strife, experts at sabotaging their own hopes in a frenzy of angst, intellectual disagreements and racial slurs. From the posturings of Johan Cruyff through to the tantrums of Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard and the haughtiness of Edgar Davids, they have specialised in tearing each other apart.

Dennis Bergkamp even said recently that the Dutch had been glad to be knocked out of the 1994 World Cup in the quarter-finals against Brazil because there were so many disagreements within the squad. This year, though, in this tournament, as Brazil loom again, the atmosphere in the camp is very different.

Everything surrounding the squad oozes peace and serenity, not conflict. The training ground is shaded from the fierce heat of the sun by a limestone cliff that throws a blanket of coolness across the pitch. In the distance, the Mediterranean shimmers under blue skies and terracotta tiles peep out from the secluded mansions that dot the wooded hills.

After their bravura performance against Argentina, the players arrived for a light training session here yesterday morning and were greeted by a round of applause from a small knot of supporters. They

sauntered out on to the pitch, past the dummies, and sat on the grass in a circle around their coach, Guus Hiddink. When he had finished speaking, they too, began clapping.

When they got up to do some light jogging, Bergkamp wrestled playfully with Davids, the Juventus midfielder player who was sent home from the 1996 European championship after allegations of racial bias. For a few steps, Wim Jonk and Patrick Kluyvert, another former malcontent, walked arm in arm. All was smiles and laughter, as before the morning after the quarter-final before.

The Dutch journalists can still not quite believe that the arguing will not begin again. But they say that the message from the camp has been

consistent and unwavering. The problems were sorted out after Euro 96 and now everything is sweetness and light. There is nothing, in fact, to suggest otherwise.

Even the news yesterday that Winston Bogarde, the Barcelona left back who would have played against Brazil as a replacement for the suspended Arthur Numan, would miss the game with a serious ankle injury sustained in the training session, did not appear to deflect the players' focus. Nor did the projected absence of Marc Overmars affect their optimism.

At last, they seem to have adapted to the art of looking out rather than in, of trying to analyse other teams rather than agonising about their own, of sowing doubts in the



Hiddink, the Holland coach, shows his concern as Bogarde leaves training with a serious ankle injury

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WORLD CUP 98



As Suker celebrates his goal, Croatia's third, Klinsmann, the Germany captain, wears the look of a player who knows the game is up

Klinsmann exits amid lack of tunnel vision

By the third goal, Jürgen Klinsmann had given up the chase, his international farewell in ruins. No longer was he urging his team-mates to dig deep and show the World Cup that Germany had another comeback left in them. Even Klinsmann recognised now that all the escape tunnels at France 98 had finally been closed.

After Croatia's first goal, and then their second, the message was delivered loud and clear by the captain of Germany. On both occasions, as they waited to restart the game, Klinsmann made his feelings evident in words and gestures. But when Suker made it 3-0, Klinsmann walked back slowly to the centre circle and stood motionless, waiting to kick off, waiting to go home.

Klinsmann had said he would retire from international football after this World Cup and, unless he has a highly improbable change of heart, the quarter-final here will go down as the last of 108 appearances for Germany. The last and, surely, the worst it was Germany's heaviest World Cup defeat during the 11 years since he made his international debut against Brazil. There will be no sympathy now, no match against Brazil in the final to go out on.

Klinsmann left Stade de Gerland without a word, a graceless departure as he closed his ears to media requests for interviews, briskly walking past the line of radio, television and written press in the mixed zone. But what could he have said? Berti Vogts, the German national team coach, summed it up best of all. "It is a difficult moment to live with," Vogts said.

Not least for Klinsmann, a World Cup winner with West Germany in 1990 and captain of Germany's victorious Euro 96 team. He simply did not receive the service a forward is entitled to expect. L'Equipe, the French sports newspaper, yesterday slammed his performance, saying he had a ca-

The Germany supporters had arrived more in expectation than hope. One, Frank Emig, from Frankfurt, said: "Before the World Cup, all the surveys on the Internet, on TV and in the newspapers said that Berti Vogts should leave Klinsmann at home, but now we are proud of our attack because Klinsmann and Bierhoff are the best front two in the tournament."

Athleticism comes in many different forms — the speed of Owen, the spring of Salas, the robustness of Vieri — and Klinsmann has carried his own brand. Even at 33, he runs with the grace of a gazelle, always on his toes, even in the defensive wall at free kicks, when others stand flat-footed.

Klinsmann departs not as the oldest player in the Germany team but four years younger than Matthäus. They will not miss each other, their feuds so frequent and public that the Lyons newspaper, Le Progrès, headlined a joint profile: Klinsmann-Matthäus: je t'aime, moi non plus. At least Klinsmann was there at the finish, spared the ignominy suffered by Lincker of being substituted in his last international. When the referee's whistle called time, he swapped shirts with Soldo, loitered for a while, gave just one wave, then disappeared down the tunnel. Soldo may value the last national shirt worn by Klinsmann, in contrast to Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, who said after the player had offered it to him after his last game of his first spell at White Hart Lane: "I would not wash my car with it."

Wolfgang Niersbach, a spokesman for the German football authorities, said it was "definite" that Klinsmann would never return in a national shirt. So, from Tottenham Hotspur and Germany, he is now expected to finish his club career in the United States. Perhaps the transatlantic escape tunnel will help him to forget the one that caved in on him here.

'Even at 33, he runs with the grace of a gazelle. He is always on his toes'

Ladic hooked the ball away with his feet.

Klinsmann was thus denied his fourth goal of the finals, as was Bierhoff. Together they had been the most productive forward pair of the tournament. Croatia, though, were prepared, with their mean defence, only two goals conceded in five matches.



Klinsmann: sad finish

CROATIA are in danger of giving nationalism a good name. Thanks to the shameful brutality of English and German thugs, the N-word had become a dirty one at this World Cup.

There have been times in France when one did not want to admit to being English, never mind take pride in it. So when the Croatia players emerged after their stirring triumph over Germany on Saturday in T-shirts proclaiming "Proud to be a Croat", you almost longed to be able to share in the fervent patriotism that influences their every word and deed.

Croatia had not just advanced heroically to the semi-finals of their first World Cup. In the minds of their driven players, they had proclaimed the worth of a country that had not even existed in 1990 by triumphing over one of football's superpowers. "We were under Yugoslavia for 45 years," Igor Stimac, the captain, said. "We could not say we were Croatian then so you understand why we now tell everyone. This is about football but it is also about our country. We want to show the world that we are a great nation, great people."

It was a defiance reflected by their fans, crammed into one corner of the Stade de Gerland, but able to drown out the weak whimpers of the Germans. When they face France on Wednesday night, the Croatia supporters will be outnumbered by more than 20 to one, but they will make themselves heard.

Such zealous backing will surely lift the players against a host nation which is finding it difficult to score goals and which will be under tremendous pressure. Yet, without the powerful Alen Boksic, one

Croatian pride wins through

wonders how Croatia will break down the best defence in the tournament, for it was only when Germany had been reduced to ten men on Saturday that Croatia began to prosper.

But whether or not they succeed, Croatia have injected new interest into a tournament that was being dominated by the traditional powers. It may be a nation of only 4,000,000 souls, but it produces an unusually high number of exceptional footballers and they could well have triumphed in Euro 96, their first tournament since the break-up of the former Yugoslavia, but for a crazy loss of discipline in the quarter-final against Germany.

"Two years is a long time to be dreaming of revenge," Stimac said. "Germany said they were a stronger nation than us. They did not show us respect so we needed to show them tonight."

In the European championship it was the controversial dismissal of Stimac that provoked Croatia's downfall. This time it was Germany who suffered at the hands of the referee, the match being transformed by the red card shown to Wörns in the fortieth minute. His tackle on Suker was a crude one but not deserving of dismissal, and the referee's assertion that the German defender was the last man was incorrect.



FROM MATT DICKINSON

Until then, Germany had been threatening to overwhelm their opponents with a barrage of crosses, but any later claims of a miscarriage of justice were surrendered by the brutality of some of the German challenges. Bierhoff was lucky to stay on the field when his elbow crashed into Soldo's face and there were numerous crass attempts at intimidation.

The roles were reversed from Euro 96, with Germany resorting to brute force and Croatia cleverly playing on their opponents' frustration. Croatia is a young country, but its footballers are maturing fast.

"We are a hot-headed people," Slaven Bilic, the Everton defender, said. "But we also want to show the world we are a cultured one."

We have learnt to keep calm and that was important because the Germans are a physical team. "Never less so than at corners. There is a growing tendency for the penalty box to turn into a wrestling ring, with defenders blocking the runs of strikers like American football line-backers. Heinrich and Stimac appeared to have taken up judo at one corner and it is time that referees took a stand.

To survive with ten men was always going to be difficult for a team with so many of its players past their prime. Croatia took advantage of the extra space within five minutes. Free to move forward rather than tracking Heinrich's bursts, Jarni planted a crisp drive past Köpke shortly before half-time.

When Ladic, otherwise barely tested, saved brilliantly from Bierhoff just after the interval, one suspected this salvage operation was even beyond German skills and it was a surprise that it took Croatia until the eightieth minute to increase their lead, when Köpke was again beaten from outside the area as Viaoic let fly.

Suker completed the scoring five minutes from time to cap a display of occasionally breathtaking arrogance, but the most eye-catching performances were those of Boban and, particularly, the blond-haired Stanic in midfield.

Afterwards, Miroslav Blazevic, the coach, came out of the dressing-room bearing a general manager's hat, given to him before the second-round victory over Romania. A lucky charm, he said, but also something to show solidarity with the French policeman left in a coma by German thugs. On the day of the greatest triumph in their sporting history, Croatia could be relied upon to maintain a sense of perspective.

GERMANY (3-4-1-2): A Köpke (Mainz) — C Wörns (Paris Saint-Germain), L Matzhaus (Bayern Munich), J Köhler (Borussia Dortmund), D Hansen (Bayern Munich); subs: U Messner, K Schuster, J Jansen (Hamburg), M Tarnat (Bayern Munich), T Häßler (Borussia Dortmund); sub: U Klinsmann, Bayer Leverkusen, 60 — J Klinsmann (Tottenham Hotspur), O Bierhoff (Augsburg).

CROATIA (3-5-2): D Ladic (Croatia Zagreb) — S Bilic (Croatia), I Stimac (Derry County), D Stanic (Croatia Zagreb) — M Stanic (Parma), Z Soldo (MS Stuttgart), A Anunic (Napoli), Z Boban (AC Milan), J Jarni (Real Betis) — D Suker (Real Madrid), G Viaoic (Vladivostok), sub: S Maric, Croatia Zagreb, 50.

Referee: R Petersen (Norway).

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A detailed tournament bracket titled 'THE ROAD TO THE WORLD CUP FINAL'. It shows the progression from quarter-finals to the final, including team names, scores, and dates. A large image of the World Cup trophy is on the left side of the bracket.

Hodde keeps England options open

GLENN HODDE is not ready to discuss a new contract with the Football Association taking him to the 2002 World Cup. Keith Wiseman, the FA chairman, has offered to hold talks with Hodde on extending his contract, which ends after the European championship in two years, but Hodde has said: "The next World Cup is too far ahead for me to consider at the moment. I want to keep my options open. Both the FA and myself are aware that my contract runs until Euro 2000."

to change the situation. If the agreement was coming to an end then it would be different," he was quoted as saying. Hodde was convinced that England could win the World Cup but will now turn his attention to the European championship. Qualification matches begin in September. By the time they come around, however, the England coach may have to contend with a new method of resolving a draw. Even though the first "golden goal" of the World Cup finals has been scored, Fifa is still looking at other ways of ending a stalemate.

Keith Cooper, a spokesman for the world governing body, said refinements to a system that ends the match as soon as a goal is scored in extra time are constantly being deliberated. "There is another suggestion on the table which for many people is a favourite," Cooper said. The proposal is for extra time to last 30 minutes, followed by penalties if there are no goals. If one team scores in extra time, that team wins after the 30-minute period. But if both teams score the same number of goals in extra time, the team that scored first is the winner.

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WORLD CUP 98

Blazevic stubs out negative approach

Wilson in line for belated switch to Sheffield

ROB HUGHES Chief Sports Writer

The heads fall like apples off a tree in a gale. By yesterday, 12 national team coaches had gone, and the tempest of this World Cup, the winds heightened by irrational chauvinistic expectation across the world, means it will not finish at that. The four countries left, Brazil, Croatia, Holland and France, are aware that the coach intends to find more soothing employment as soon as his duty is served, in the case of Mario Zagallo, of Brazil, retirement.



Blazevic has undoubtedly felt the strain of Croatia's World Cup challenge, but his team has set a fine example on the field. Photograph: Michel Springler

Yet, Fifa, football's world governing body, issued an edict last week requesting that the coaches set an example by refraining from smoking on the touchline. Imagine it, Miroslav Blazevic, the volatile Croatia coach who smokes to keep his nerves together, being told: stop that, show the children of the world that, whatever the pressure, nicotine is not the answer. Blazevic, like Cesar Menotti, El Flaco, the thin one, who chain-smoked while coaching Argentina to victory in the 1978 World Cup, is dependent on the weed.

that has come late to this over-long adventure flowing. In Davor Suker, the man who scored Croatia's final goal to rout an ageing Germany side 3-0 in their quarter-final match, came possibly the ultimate fulfilment. "This match was billed as David versus Goliath," he said with a smile. "Now we can ask, who is who?"

I think we were better in every aspect of the game. This is the greatest day in the history of Croatian football. Now we must let the French take their rest before we do it again. His football association president, Branko Miksa, had mixed politics with sport. "Berlin has fallen today," he said. "We don't need to prove

the quality of our team any more. "Germany's coach claims that we won with the help of the referee, but I didn't hear him complain about the referee in Euro 96 [when Germany won 2-1 in the quarter-finals and Stimirac was sent off for Croatia]."

Indeed, the Germans were predictably complaining after Christian Wornos was correctly sent off for a violent foul, a kick at the ankles of Suker. And that depletion was, for once, expertly exploited. Croatia showed what Argentina failed to do against England: they used the flanks, they stretched the nerve and sinew of the former world champi-

ons, and no one more than Suker. Suker came to this World Cup with possibly more energy than 99 per cent of the players at this tournament, because his club, Real Madrid, had used him so sparingly. In Madrid, Suker was almost surplus to requirements

the club rotating Fernando Morientes, Predrag Mijatovic and Raul. He had, therefore, energy in reserve, and Germany paid for it. At the height of the quarter-final, Suker wanted to tease Germany with his masterful left foot. With only a one-goal lead, this seemed ill advised. Yet, again and again, Suker seemed to need to toy with the opposition. It is a quality in him that we also saw during the European championship, where he breathtakingly chipped Peter Schmeichel from 30 yards: the bigger they come, the more audacious becomes Suker. Come the semi-final in St-Denis, Suker had better concentrate on finishing first: concentrate on proving that he, above all others, has the precious and devastating skill to bring down France, who

'They showed that you can win with attacking football, flair and courage'

have no natural goalscorer of their own. Before that, in Marseilles tomorrow, the appetite is whetted for Holland against Brazil, with the champions - even more than their history suggests - vulnerable in defence but rapacious in attack. Denmark ran them close in a compelling contest of five goals.

And now that Dennis Bergkamp has struck such a vivid and elegant vein of form for Holland and surpassed Marco van Basten and Johan Cruyff as his country's leading World Cup goalscorer, he threatens to pick holes in the Brazil rearguard. The referees remain under pressure - and they cannot smoke on duty. The players of France, in particular, feel pressure, and a disproportionate number of their countrymen and women light up in anxiety. But the Brazilians are finding that attack is their team's only form of defence: and with Rivaldo, Ronaldo and a revived Bebeto, adventure is the incentive right to the very end.

Blazevic, undoubtedly, will see himself through these matches with a cigarette in hand. Guts Hiddink, the Holland coach, who is likely to retreat to club management when this World Cup ends, likes a cigar. But Zagallo and Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, neither of whom intend to work under the strain of their country's expectation again, are non-smokers. At least for the moment.

DANNY WILSON is expected to be the next manager of Sheffield Wednesday. The former Wednesday midfielder, now in charge at Barnsley, held discussions with the Hillsborough club on Saturday after his relegated team finally allowed him to talk. In the immediate, emotional aftermath of Barnsley's exit from the FA Carling Premiership, Wilson said he would stay, but he has now decided he cannot take them any further. He feels that even if he managed a second promotion from the Nationwide League first division, there would be insufficient funds to offer a realistic chance of survival in the top flight. When Wednesday approached Wilson at the start of the summer, hoping he would partner Ron Atkinson, Barnsley refused them permission to speak to him. However, Wednesday, having failed to attract Gerard Houllier, the former France coach, or Walter Smith, the new Everton manager, to Hillsborough, have now surprisingly been given the go-ahead to meet Wilson. Wilson entered negotiations at the weekend and will hold further talks this week. Unless a bigger club makes a swift approach in the meantime, Wilson could be installed as the new Wednesday manager by the middle of the week. He has been told that, for the first time in his managerial career, there will be massive transfer funds to spend. It is unfortunate for Atkinson, who was only dismissed when it was thought that Wilson was unavailable. The Wednesday board believed it would be unable to tempt a

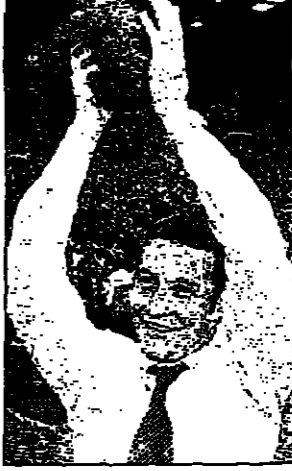


Suker, the Croatia striker and his team's most potent weapon, proudly flies the flag for his country

CASUALTIES table listing players from various countries and their status (Resigned, Sacked, etc.)



Jürgen Klinsmann, left, leads the protest during Germany's surprise quarter-final defeat in Lyons

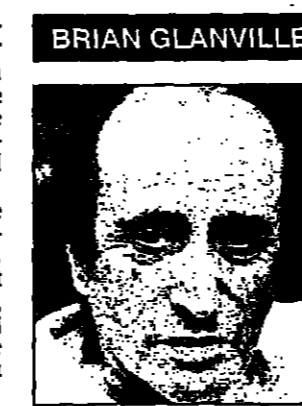


Wilson believes he cannot take Barnsley any further

JVC WORLD CUP QUIZ advertisement with details on how to enter, prizes, and today's prize: a widescreen television.

Suker expects Croatia's power to demolish France defence

FRANCE have home advantage. Croatia have Davor Suker. If they also had Alen Boksic, laid low by a knee operation shortly before the World Cup began, the semi-final on Wednesday would probably be no contest. Croatia would then have had two formidable marksmen. France have none at all. When they do have chances, at least against the better teams, they miss them, as Youri Djorkaeff so signally did at the end of the first half against Italy on Friday.



World Cup Commentary

Italy, Laurent Blanc, the dominating Marcel Desailly and Bixente Lizarazu, is a foundation on which the team is built. In goal, Fabien Barthez, about whom there may have been some doubt before the competition, is looking more secure with every game, whether on the line or when coming out for crosses. Thuram said: "Our superiority over the Italians was not only technical but tactical. Our coach, by contrast with the previous games, put in a third defensive midfielder, Karambeu, alongside Deschamps and Petit, giving us numerical superiority in the area where play begins. Our midfield pinned the Italians in their area, increasing the distance between Del Piero, Vieri and their teammates."

save by Gianluca Pagliuca, of Italy, preventing him scoring an early goal. He put the icing on the cake when, in possession of the ball at a crucial late stage of the game, he deliberately backheeled it out of play to let an injured opponent receive attention. The French insist that for all the extra time they have been obliged to play, the sheer euphoria of success prevents them from feeling tired; though Deschamps has admitted that he was a weary man by the end of the quarter-final. Asked how he felt the morning after the victorious quarter-final, Petit said: "The stairs were very hard to climb and descend." Petit is less concerned, he said, about France not scoring than by the teams they may now play. "I dream of meeting a side that really wants to play, rather than counter-attack us at 2,000kmh," he said. He may realise that dream against Croatia. Djorkaeff seems almost sure to play, despite the criticism showered upon him. Apart from missing chances, why, it is asked, did he not take one of the penalties against Italy when he was No 2 on the list? "I was very tired," he said. "I was in sixth position. I was ready to go, but then Di Biagio missed."

Meanwhile, not only Jacquet but the whole France team say they want Djorkaeff to play, praising him for the way he put pressure on the Italy defenders. "Against Italy," Jacquet said, "he was less decisive than usual but more involved in the play. He'd been maltreated. Perhaps he wasn't as good as he might have been in finishing, but his presence, his technique, his commitment are indispensable." Besides, though Jacquet still insists his team can go all the way, who does put the ball in the net for them? It is ironic to look back 40 years at a French team whose chief asset was putting the ball in the net. France had great trouble with Paraguay this time out, but in the opening game in 1958, after being 3-2 down, they triumphed 7-3, four goals coming in the last half-hour as Just Fontaine, a France forward then, recently recalled. He finished with a record 13 goals, though four of them in a Gothenburg game in the third-place match against a weakened Germany. Defences now are, of course, so much less open to the through pass, though Holland's looked pretty open when Claudio Lopez scored for Argentina on Saturday. What we do know is that Jacquet is tactically flexible. Few expected him to use those three defensive midfielders against Italy. "He chose them," Zinedine Zidane, France's best hope of penetrating Croatia's defence said. It was a wise choice.

big-name successor if Atkinson remained as manager. It was planned originally to make him a director of football. Ian Wright is also likely to move this week, with West Ham United among those interested in signing him. The England forward has been told by Arsene Wenger, his Arsenal manager, that he can leave on a free transfer, and, for the first time this summer, Wright has indicated that he is ready to leave Highbury. "The manager has given me time to go away and think about my future. It could be time to explore other avenues," the striker, 34, who missed the World Cup through injury, said at the weekend. Wright spent much of last season on the treatment table, but his availability on a free transfer will tempt several clubs. He is keen to stay in the FA Carling Premiership and in London, making West Ham an obvious choice despite interest from Crystal Palace, Everton and Middlesbrough. Wright's likely replacement at Highbury seems to have been arranged already. Sources in the Holland camp at the World Cup finals say that Patrick Kluijvert has agreed a pre-contract with Arsenal, worth £6 million over four years. The deal is expected to be completed after the World Cup.

URGENT WORLD CUP FINAL TICKETS WANTED advertisement with contact information.

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WORLD CUP 98

Hand-picked jury of three clears Beckham

Ten minutes in television is a light year, a large slice of a programme normally reserved only for matters of state or grave issues that have stirred the nation. Thus, the David Beckham Debate was afforded ten minutes of World Cup 98 - Encore! on Saturday night.

It was, after all, a topic that had provoked every shade of emotion since that evening in St-Etienne, when Beckham was sent off in the second-round match against Argentina and England's hopes of remaining in the tournament took a terminal turn.

Who better to dissect the incident and its implications than Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager? Ferguson has nursed Beckham through his formative years at Old Trafford and had previously made no comment on the hugely publicised indiscretion. Not so much tight-lipped as unavailable.

Cue titles, obligatory World Cup montage and introduction from Jim Rosenthal, the presenter and quizmaster. Then it was straight into the inquisition, Ferguson holding centre stage with Terry Venables and Ruud Gullit, his fellow ITV panellists, but mere decoration.

It was a bold defence by Ferguson. He spoke calmly, without rancour, and attempted to introduce perspective into an argument that had long since spiralled out of control. It was predictable, too. Beckham did not deserve to be sent off and the public response, blaming him for the defeat, had been ludicrous.

Though thoughtfully delivered, Ferguson's defence was more managerial than majestic. It was when Venables and Gullit entered the fray, though, that ITV could stand accused of losing the plot.

Everything is taken out of proportion when we talk about the World Cup. Venables said "Someone's always got to be a scapegoat. It was not a sending-off in a normal environment but I was not surprised by it in light of some of the other sendings-off we've had."

Gullit took a similar line. "The game was not lost because of Beckham," he said. "The vital moment was one minute before half-time, when Argentina equalised from the free kick. The England players were sleeping. Also, Scholes could have scored..."



Wilson in line for belated switch to Sheffield

ANNY WILSON is expected to be the next manager of Sheffield Wednesday. The club's board has agreed to offer her a three-year contract, but she has not yet decided whether to take it.

Hover control switched to automatic as the brilliant Bergkamp sends Argentina packing

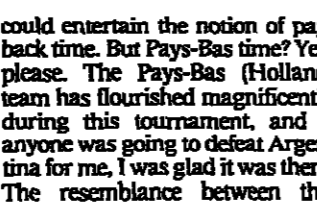
Blossom time for the team in orange

Stade Velodrome, Marseille

There are several particular sensations you get at Marseille's spectacular Stade Velodrome. First, that the stadium is revolving. And second, that it has been designed by a latter-day druid to be viewed from space.



But if aliens in spacecraft looked down at the Velodrome on Saturday and giggled at the tiny figures playing football, they will have changed their tune about its triviality pretty smartish. "Can you believe it, orange ones are playing blue and white striped ones!" they reported, slapping their necks in glee.



As Kluyvert celebrates after scoring Holland's first goal, Ronald de Boer goes down on one knee to salute the supporters. Photograph: Michael Probst

could entertain the notion of pay-back time. But Pays-Bas time? Yes, please. The Pays-Bas (Holland) team has flourished magnificently during this tournament, and if anyone was going to defeat Argentina for me, I was glad it was there.

Goran Ivanisevic picked Croatia for the fourth. I'm just wondering aloud, am I eligible for some sort of prize for insufferable big-heads?

Back with Saturday's quarter-final, however, the important thing was to cling to the sides of the Velodrome as its revolutions gathered speed. It was a truly fascinating match, supported by a fabulous crowd - the Argentinians adding to the vertigo by the hypnotic waving of blue-and-white favours, helicopter fashion.

Compare this interesting calculation with the thoughts going through Ariel Ortega's brain when he nudged Holland's goalkeeper in the 87th minute (contents of bubble: 0), and an exaggerated contrast can be seen. Honestly, what an unsatisfactory World Cup Argentina had. All those early goals, don't forget, were against Jamaica and Japan. So their performance

graph stubbornly flat-lined while Holland's soared, and the only team to be even more enigmatic than Argentina is Brazil, whom Holland now meet in the semi-final. What nobody knows is: have Brazil shown their true qualities yet or are they holding back? If I were Guus Hiddink, I'd be worrying rather a lot about this.

Meanwhile, however, the Holland coach can take comfort in the quality of those beautiful goals on Saturday, so clean and perfect they sent an alien craft away decked in celebratory orange. After Kluyvert got the first

of course, Lopez struck back in the seventeenth minute with a rather dismal, confusing goal - the Holland defenders appealing for offside, and poor Van der Sar facing him one-to-one in the box, knees bent, tumbling backwards. This was not a glamorous goal by any standards, but it put the score at 1-1 for almost the remainder of the 90 minutes. Thereafter the post got in the way to an astonishing degree, making people look at each other and say (in various languages, including Klingon): "Well I never."

But then, in the 90th minute, that wonderful 1.85m Timberbell, Dennis Bergkamp, made his

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk Correspondence should include address and postcode

An injustice to England

From Mr Mark A. Thomas Sir, David Elleray (column, July 2) says the Danish referee in charge of the England game got it spot on. I disagree. Whilst there is no doubt that David Beckham should have been sent off, the incident nevertheless dealt England a crushing injustice. The challenge from behind by Simone on Beckham was ruthless, cynical, made no attempt to play the ball and was itself serious foul play.

From Mr Mark Paget Sir, Whilst I would not disagree with David Elleray's assessment that Kim Milton Nielsen refereed the game in an intelligent manner and in no way could be "blamed" for England's defeat, I do take issue on his comment that "both penalties show that there doesn't have to be intent". I used to officiate in the game up to Beazer Homes League level until 1984. In all the time that I was refereeing, I cannot remember ever having penalised an infringement of the laws that was not the result of my interpreting that "intent" had taken place.

Malcolm's behaviour right on the mark

From Mr P.A. Entwistle Sir, Michael Henderson's article "Sour Malcolm wide of the mark" (Crimson Rambler, June 27) is not the only occasion when Devon Malcolm's attitude has been, either expressly or implicitly, criticised. My experience of him was wholly favourable.

Deceptive act

From Mrs Dinah Ceely Sir, I was interested to see (July 2) that Michael Owen was described by L'Equipe as "a deceitful comedian". I have not seen the original, but spent some time recently explaining to my children that the French comedien translates as "actor". I am sure that Owen was not intending to be funny, and in fact his performance (if any) was both serious and moving, especially when Shearer scored the resulting penalty.

No disagreement

From the Cricket Operations Manager of the England and Wales Cricket Board Sir, In The Times on Saturday July 4, Jack Bailey wrote in his report on the Varsity match at Lord's that Oxford University's coach, Gary Palmer, had clearly reconstrated with the umpires while apparently questioning the number of overs remaining to be bowled.

Pressure came from the top

From Mr Francis Tavares Sir, If England's World Cup campaign has raised questions about David Beckham's temperament then it has also raised questions about Glenn Hoddle's capacity to coach. In France 98 the rot began at the top.

Farcical matches

From Mr M. F. Lowe Sir, How I agree with John Thicknesse's description "charade" of the captains' agreement in the Middles v Essex cricket match (report, June 29). When will the authorities take action to ban these contrived finishes to so-called serious matches? They ruin the games for the serious spectators and turn the county championship into a farce.

This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow What is Pelé's view of the 1998 Boys from Brazil as they head into the last week of the World Cup? Rob Hughes talks to a great of the game. Thursday John Hopkins watches a classy field of golfers putting the final touches to their Open Championship as the Loch Lomond World Invitational. Friday A report of the July Cup, the highlight of this week's summer race meeting at Newmarket. Saturday Milka Hakkinen talks of his world championship chances on the eve of the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

CRICKET

Kent deny Yorkshire their place at the top

BY IVO TENNANT

MAIDSTONE (Yorkshire won toss): Kent (4pts) beat Yorkshire by five wickets

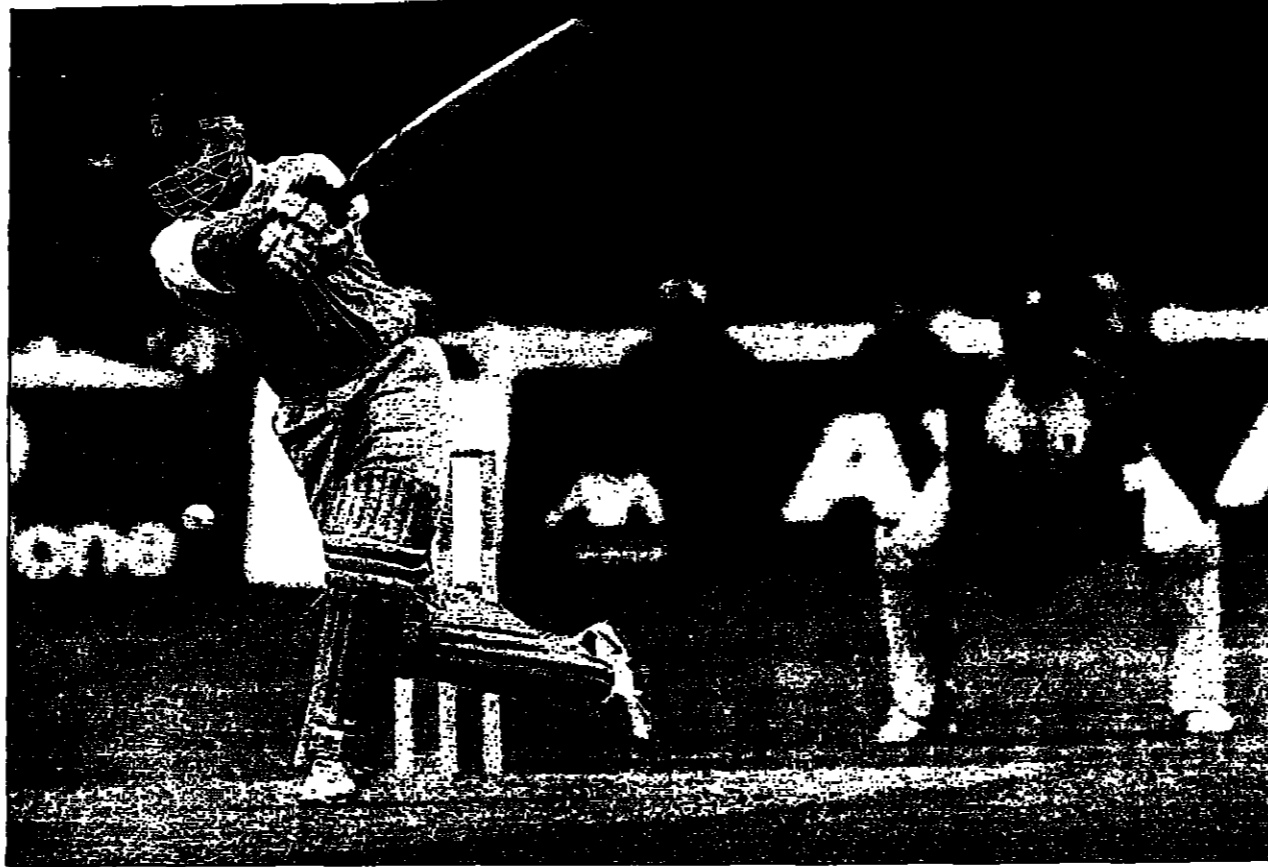
BY MAKING a total of 263 for three yesterday, their biggest against Kent in the Axa League, Yorkshire must have reckoned they had done enough to take them to the top of the table. It was not to be. An exceptional innings by Trevor Ward, another by Carl Hooper in keeping with his reputation in these parts, and some graft from Robert Key, brought Kent victory with three balls to spare. Three runs off the last over were achieved without undue fuss.

There are invariably sizeable crowds and gargantuan scores in Sunday League matches at the Mote. It is not a noticeably small ground, but the standard of club cricket played here is such that the pitches are generally true and the outfield well tended. Malcolm Bryston is in his 36th year as the head groundsman.

Having played himself back into form last week, Ward batted now as if he had never been out of it. Even when he was not quite to the pitch of the ball, he was still able to place it where he wanted. He and Key took 100 runs off the first 15 overs and had put on 125 in all, scoring off just about every ball, by the time they were paired. As when Kent were in the field, there seemed to be a dearth of bowlers or, more to the point, bowlers looking to catch the captain's eye.

Ward's innings of 85 came off 70 balls and included one six swept over deep backward square leg — Hutchison, wary of treading on the boundary rope, misjudged a possible catch — and another driven over extra cover, as well as eight fours. Stemp conceded 16 off his first over but was resorting to bowling wide of the leg stump when Ward pulled a ball dropped shorter to Wood on the deep mid-wicket boundary.

Key achieved his second



DAVID BURNER

Slater hits out on his way to an opening partnership of 57 before being stumped off a wide yesterday

Law gives Essex winning edge

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

DERBY (Essex won toss): Essex (4pts) beat Derbyshire by eight wickets

ONLY vigilant batsmen prospered on a slow pitch yesterday. It fostered an attritional contest in which Derbyshire managed only four boundaries, the dour forerunner of Essex maintaining their Axa League title challenge in bleak weather.

Few could escape from the constraints of low bounce. The twin demands of survival and run scoring were beyond nearly everyone, except Barnett, who scored a half century, made for 75 balls for Derbyshire, and Stuart Law, who scored 78 not out off 85 balls.

With Cork on Test duty, DeFreitas suffering from tonsillitis and Harris out for the rest of the season through a stress fracture, Derbyshire needed more runs to defend than their batsmen could muster. Barnett and Slater shared an opening partnership of 57 in 18 overs, but from 122 for three, Derbyshire lost their last seven wickets for 30 runs.

Napier, 18, returned his best figures in the competition of three for 22.

Slater had been stumped off a wide and Derbyshire endured such problems of timing that Barnett, Spendlow and Tweats were all caught at extra cover. Grayson, whose previous four wickets in competition this summer had cost 53 runs each, bowled so tidily that he returned four for 28. Grayson had Barnett caught after he had completed a half-century. Roberts was leg-before, Aldred was bowled by a ball that scuttled through and Smith suffered a similar fate as the innings reached a tepid conclusion.

Batting was a difficult proposition for Essex in a performance that augurs well for the Benson and Hedges Cup final against Leicestershire at Lord's on Saturday. Law took control with a half-century from 52 balls and found an eager ally in Pritchard as they put together a stand of 63 for their first wicket. Smith distinguished himself with a diving catch to dismiss Pritchard and Peters was quickly leg-before to Clarke, but Law and Irani, a consistent run-maker this season, thwarted any possible repeat of Derbyshire's earlier collapse as Essex won with 73 overs to spare.

Morris assault fails to earn elusive win

BY RICHARD HOBSON

DARLINGTON (Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Durham by five runs

A TEAM meeting lasting over an hour in the aftermath of their innings defeat in the championship last Friday could not stir Durham into winning ways. They at least showed signs of improvement, but Vince Wells, with figures of four for 18, turned this Axa League game the way of the visitors.

John Morris threatened to win the contest for the home side in less than time he took to get off the mark last week. He required 46 balls and 63 minutes to leave nothing in the championship, but this time struck nine fours in scoring 48 from 44 balls as Durham reached 87 in 13 overs.

Having dismissed Leicestershire for 174 they appeared to be cantering towards their first win in the competition since May 10. The dismissal of Morris, however, heralded a collapse that not only undermined Durham but brought a spring to Leicestershire's approach in the field. Boon followed in similar fashion next ball — adjudged leg-before by Barry Dudleston

— and Wells claimed his third wicket in five balls when Collingwood gave a leading edge to Habib al Gully. That the home side were still nominally 14 runs ahead according to Duckworth/Lewis suggested that cricket's deadly duo are more familiar with arithmetical theory than Durham's habit of capitulation. A fine ball by Wells clipped Lewis's off ball and, after Phillips chopped Williamson onto his stumps, Betts gave a thin edge to Nixon. This left a big responsibility with Speck, but he offered the wicketkeeper a second catch after making 33. Killen and Siggers added 26 for the last wicket before Killen nicked Dakin to Nixon with his side tantalisingly close.

Leicestershire had not batted especially well themselves. Collectively they failed to gauge the pace of a pitch that was too slow for one-day cricket, half of the wickets falling to mistimed attacking strokes off the front foot.

Phillips, the off-spin bowler, proved particularly effective in stifling the innings. Five batsmen reached 20 but the top scorer, Nixon, made only 33 — and he was dropped twice along the way.

Dowman effort all in vain

BY BARNEY SPENDER

TRENT BRIDGE (Nottinghamshire won toss): Middlesex (4pts) beat Nottinghamshire by 24 runs

MIDDLESEX bucked back from the humiliation of their championship defeat on Friday to claim a comfortable, if at one time unlikely, victory over Nottinghamshire which keeps them among the front runners of the Axa League.

On a difficult pitch, which was in its sixth day of use, Middlesex struggled to 173 for four. Owais Shah, who made a pair in the championship match, was the only batsman to look at home, striking three fours and a six on his way to 42 off 56 balls. Justin Langer, normally fluent was reduced to scratching around for 26 overs for his 34, before driving Bates, the off spinner, straight to Strang at extra cover.

The way Nottinghamshire started, it hardly looked enough, even when Richard Johnson removed the danger pair of Gallian and Paul Johnson in the fifth over. Matthew Dowman, restored to the side after making a century for the seconds against Durham last week, struck Bloomfield for three boundaries in one over, and a home win was on the cards.

Surrey shamed by Thomas

BY PAT GIBSON

SWANSEA (Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan (4pts) beat Surrey by 107 runs

IT WILL be a great shame if this turns out to be Glamorgan's last game at St Helen's. The famous old ground where they beat the Australians in 1964 and 1968, where Gary Sobers hit his six sixes in one over, also in 1968, deserves a better finale than this undignified scrap between the bottom teams in the Axa League.

Fortunately, it should not come to that. St Helen's Balconiers, a Swansea-based supporters' group, raised £7,500 in donations and sold 27 hospitality packages to persuade Glamorgan to return this season after Swansea City Council had refused them the £10,000 guarantee they wanted.

They must have been wondering whether their efforts were worthwhile when Glamorgan were losing the

championship game inside three days. But it all came right last night when they had a Glamorgan victory to celebrate and a local hero to toast. Darren Thomas, 23, the fast-medium bowler who comes from just down the road at Llanello, took seven for 16, the best figures by a Glamorgan bowler in the league and the third best by anyone in their history, to give them only their second victory in the competition this season, and leave Surrey anchored at the foot of the table without a win in nine games.

How Glamorgan, the county champions, and Surrey, championship leaders, winners of the league only two years ago and boasting six players who have represented England in international cricket even without Stewart Thorpe and Butcher, have become so inept at the 40-over game is impossible to explain. Perhaps they have their thoughts on higher things.



Dale scored solid 65

Final four denies victory

BY THRASY PETROPOULOS

WORCESTER (Northamptonshire won toss): Worcestershire (2pts) tied with Northamptonshire (2)

Dale, however, was made of sterner stuff and it was he who laid the foundation for Glamorgan's eventual total of 184 with 65, including five fours, before he was caught and bowled by Ben Holliscoe, who seemed to sum up Surrey's identity crisis. England's great hope a week ago when he was included in the Test squad, he cut a strange figure in a sweater with Tudor on the back and a shirt bearing the name of Knott.

His colleagues were soon looking for something similar to hide their shame. Parkin, the former Dorset seamer, took three for 16 in his first six overs to reduce them to 31 for three and the Thomas tore through the rest as they collapsed to 77 all out.

The corresponding championship match ended in defeat inside two days as their batsmen failed to show the application needed in bowler friendly conditions. By and large, those conditions remained in evidence yesterday.

While Tom Moody and Graeme Hick were fashioning a second wicket partnership of 90 in 19 overs, a considerably more challenging target awaited them. David Follert's bowling lacked rhythm and confidence at first but when he switched to the Duglis end for a second spell he precipitated an unexpected collapse. Spirits visibly raised when Hick drove over a Yorker length ball from Follert and was bowled for 36. Follert repeated the dose two balls later to Leatherdale and, when Hafeez went caught behind off Jeremy Snape in the next over, Worcestershire had lost three wickets in five deliveries. Moody stuck around for 104 balls to score 68 before miscuing to mid-wicket. Bobby Chapman's miserly new ball spell had Northamptonshire on the rack. He had Mal Love taken at deep mid-wicket in the second over and Tony Penberthy leg before, and conceded only 21 runs in eight overs. Kevin Curran was dropped by Chapman on 50 but was caught by him next ball trying to repeat the stroke.

It seemed that Northamptonshire had run out of steam, but Rob Bailey, who has seen it all before, steered his side to the brink of victory. Worcestershire bowled 156 runs in 18 overs, 5-132, 6-150, 7-180, 8-171, 9-180, 10-181, 11-190, 12-180, 13-180, 14-180, 15-180, 16-180, 17-180, 18-180.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table of cricket scores from various matches including Kent vs Yorkshire, Essex vs Derbyshire, Leicestershire vs Durham, Glamorgan vs Surrey, Worcestershire vs Northamptonshire, and Kent vs Yorkshire.

Dashi open route t

SCOREBOARD FROM

Hewson a lift on



RUGBY LEAGUE

Walker's parting gift likely to be broadcast deal

By Christopher Irvine

WHEN Sir Rodney Walker announces his intention later this week to resign as chairman of the Rugby Football League (RFL), it will be in the knowledge that the long-running feud about broadcasting rights is close to being resolved.

Only last week a senior official of Super League Europe (SLE), the umbrella organisation of the leading clubs, was advocating a break-away. Yet after a series of meetings, clubs are expected at the Rugby League Council next week finally to sanction a revised £55 million offer by The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, to extend the Super League contract on BSkyB Television to 2003.

First and second division clubs, who angered Super League clubs by linking automatic promotion to acceptance of the new deal, have still to issue their collective backing. However, Walker is confident, after calls from several first division clubs, that agreement can be reached before he steps

down to concentrate on his new appointment as chairman of the reconstituted UK Sports Council.

Under the terms of the revised contract, the smaller clubs would receive a £10.8 million "pay-off" to allow them to negotiate their own television deal when the original £87 million News Corporation contract, signed in 1995, expires in two years.

After a productive meeting with News Corporation and SLE officials last Friday, Walker secured a seven-figure sum, in addition to the £55 million offer, for the RFL to reassert its control over international rugby league. So far, nearly £50 million in three years has gone to clubs, who have not always spent wisely, and none to central coffers.

"I see this as a window of opportunity for the game to go forward harmoniously," Walker said. "I'm more hopeful than at any time that the clubs will take it."

The issue of automatic promotion remains separate to the offer, but Walker said:

"Super League is the flagship competition and as such clubs entering it, whether coming up from the first division or as a franchise club, must fulfil the criteria laid down on minimum standards."

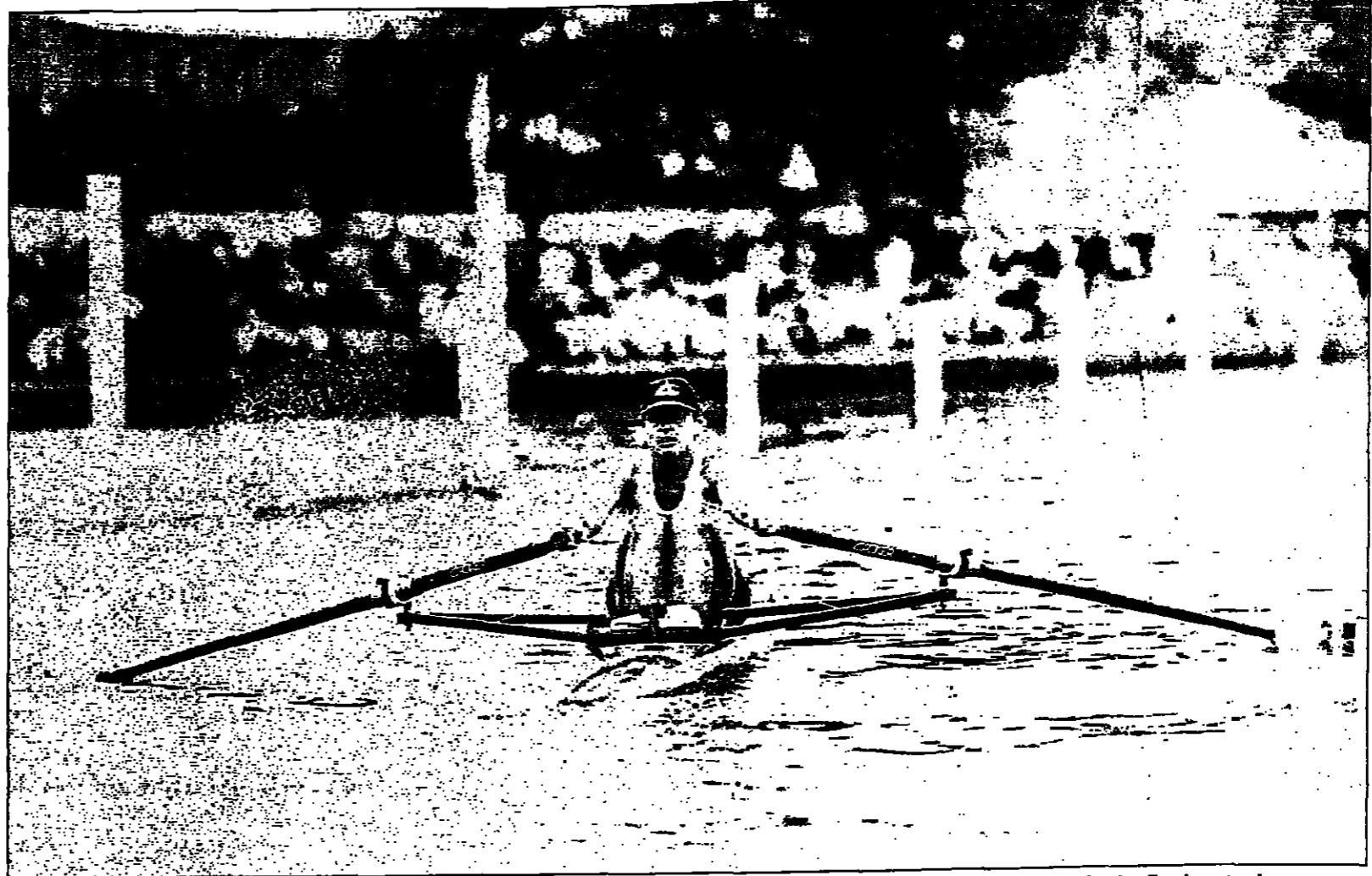
Wakefield Trinity, who presently lead the first division, are confident that if they win they would be able to upgrade facilities at Belle Vue and the club structure to satisfy minimum standards.

Were Gateshead and Cardiff, the leading franchise applicants, also to be admitted, there is then the thorny question of dividing the financial cake 15 rather than 12 ways.

Nonetheless, agreement after a year of in-fighting would mark a fitting end to Walker's contribution over five years as standard-bearer, voice of reason and skilled negotiator, all of which ideally qualifies him for his new responsibilities for the creation of the national sports institute, the redevelopment of Wembley and the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

Walker came close to stepping down last August because he was disillusioned by events. He staked his position on reducing Maurice Lindsay's influence over the game as RFL chief executive, a post from which Lindsay was subsequently dismissed by him in January. Lindsay became managing director of SLE, and at the height of the feud, Walker narrowly survived an attempt by Super League clubs to oust him from the international board.

Throughout, Walker has advocated the need for unity. Provided that self-interest is not allowed again to cloud the television issue, he has probably achieved it.



Douglas, Australia's hope for the women's sculls, found the holder, Brandin, of Sweden, too good for her in the final yesterday

Redgrave adds to Henley victory tally

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

STEVE REDGRAVE won his seventeenth Henley medal yesterday when the Leander coxless four, completed by James Cracknell, Tim Foster and Matthew Pinsent, won their final against a crew of daunting reputation.

Their Saturday semi-final, against the Australian Olympic champions, was won by a length with Pinsent, the stroke, allowing himself the dangerous luxury of punching the air five strokes from the line.

Yesterday they faced the Danish Olympic and world lightweight champions, who had not been beaten since 1995. In spite of being nearly four stone per man lighter, the Danes were itching to take on "the big men" of Leander, who were glad to have Foster back after injury.

Leander took a slight initiative off the start and, according to Pinsent, "after that it was a case of responding to their pushes". The pushes came frequently, but, up the enclosures, Leander finished at 42 to win by three-quarters of a length. Just before the finish, Jürgen Grobler, their coach, said: "They are not in their last gear yet." Pinsent said: "I wouldn't like to try and find it."

Apart from the four, other senior British national crews did not feature in finals of the premier events, but London RC won the Thames Cup with an eight that had looked "likely" since Wednesday.

Some thought their semi-final win over Molesley on Saturday was the clincher, but an experienced, not to say ageing, Bowbridge crew, which had rowed through Sydney in their semi-final, pushed London to two-thirds of a length yesterday. Simon Berresford, 35, Steve Redgrave's former pairs partner, who was rowing at No 6 for Bowbridge, looked up at the press box and said: "Time to get back to retirement."

London's win, it was thought, could have been a good omen for the later Diamond Sculls final in which Greg Searle, the holder, confronted the world champion, Jamie Koven, of the United States. London's winning stroke, Theo Hudson, was the

cox of Hampton School's winning crew, with Searle on board, ten years ago.

But this did not prove the case as Searle met his match. He has developed a new start since the World Cup regatta in Belgium and led early on by half a length. Koven had reversed this by halfway, but it was at the three-quarters of a mile mark that he made his move.

"The crowd had been really inspiring until then," Searle said. "When it changed to polite clapping, I sensed he was going." Koven had stretched his advantage to 2½ lengths by the finish.

Radley had a weekend to remember in the Princess Elizabeth school eights. In the



favourite Berkshire station. "Dead and buried," was among the comments muttered, but the Radleyans would have none of it. They came back so strongly, roared on from the enclosures, that they prevailed by half a length, the college's first success since 1962.

The British women's eight also caused some hoarse voices. On Saturday they rowed through the Canadians to win by a foot. Yesterday, they lost a third of a length off the start to the American national crew and were a third of a length behind at the finish, 7min 5sec later. "A credit to women's rowing," the official record said.

Maria Brandin, of Sweden, maintained her grip on the Princess Royal Challenge Cup for women's sculls, dashing Australian hopes for Gina Douglas.

Brandin has now won the event five times since its introduction in 1994 when she had a rib injury. She led all the way, never really breaking clear of the new Australian star, but was 1½ lengths ahead at the finish.

Imperial College reached the finals of both the Temple eights and Visitors fours. The eight won but the four lost to Isis, with four of Britain's under-23 eight.

Richard Spratley was the "coach of the regatta", winning the Britannia coxed fours with Oxford Brookes and the Wyfold fours with Bowbridge.

Warrington's revenge

WARRINGTON remained seventh in the JJB Sports Super League after beating struggling Salford 25-14 at The Willows to claim their first win in four matches.

Adam Doyle, the Australian stand-off, scored two tries on his comeback from injury as the Wolves avenged their 37-4 Good Friday defeat at Wilderspool.

Salford badly missed the injured trio of Andy Platt, Steve Blakeley and Martin Crompton as they succumbed to their seventh defeat in eight outings.

The only bright spot for Andy Gregory's team was the display of Malcolm Alker, 19, who scored two tries.

Halifax cemented third place with a 48-6 romp over neighbours Huddersfield at the McAlpine Stadium.

Daio Powell, the Halifax three-quarter, and Fereti Tuilagi scored two tries apiece as the Blue Sox blasted their close rivals aside with a nine-try salvo.

The Giants' tacking was non-existent and their only points came from a try by Jeff Wittenberg.

Return of Edwards provides instant profit for Broncos

London Broncos38
Hull Sharks6

SHAUN EDWARDS inspired London Broncos to their best performance of the season on his return to The Stoop. After three successive defeats, the passing, kicking and organisational skills of the former Great Britain scrum half was just what the Broncos have been lacking.

London took the lead after eight minutes when Jason Timu was penalised for a high tackle on Mark Carroll and Terry Matterson landed the penalty. Two minutes later, they went further ahead with a slick move from the scrum instigated by Edwards. He moved the ball smartly to Tuisen Toller and the stand-off threw a couple of dummies before passing to Chris Ryan, who sliced through the defensive line and sprinted 25 metres for the try. Matterson landed the conversion to give his side an 8-0 lead.

A penalty by Jamie Smith reduced the arrears but the Sharks spilled far too much ball to build any kind of

momentum. Midway through the half they were opened up again when a half-break from Edwards created space down the right and a neat pass by John Timu sent Rob Smyth on a 40-metre sprint to the line.

However, just as the Broncos were taking control, Matterson was sent to the sin-bin for trying to thwart a quick move by Hull. Almost immediately, Steve Easter took a pass from Gary Lester off his toes to go over for a try and minutes later a brilliant touch-line run from David Baldwin put Craig Murdoch over for what seemed to be another touchdown for the Sharks. However, the Hull scrum half lost possession in the act of scoring and his error proved to be the turning point of the game.

Just before half-time, a brilliant chip over the Sharks defence by Edwards was gathered by Timu, who scored a try that Chris Ryan converted to send his side in with an 18-6 lead.

Hull began the second half in determined fashion but were unable to breach the London defence. The home side went further ahead when Matterson landed a penalty

and five minutes later they made sure of victory with another clever try.

A neat side-step by Peter Gill enabled him to put Matt Salter through a gap and the big forward handed on for Andy Spencer to score under the posts. Matterson converted and minutes later was called on again as Smyth picked up a loose ball and raced 55 metres for another score. Just before the final whistle, Matterson scored a try and added the conversion to register London's best win of the season.

Despite the convincing victory, Tony Currie, the Broncos' coach, said that in an attempt to reach the play-offs some under-performing players will be leaving the club in the coming weeks to make way for new recruits.

SCORES: London Broncos: Tries: Smyth (2), Ryan, Timu, Spencer, Matterson; Conversion: Matterson (4); Pen: Gooley; Matterson (2); Hull Sharks: Try: Owen; Goal: Smith.

LONDON BRONCOS: M Toshack; R Smyth, J Timu, C Ryan, W Connor, T Toller, S Edwards, M Dunkford, T Matterson, M Currie, A Spencer, S Redgrave, P Gill; Subs: R Best, M Salter, K Chesney, D Peters

HULL SHARKS: J Smith, F Senu, D Badden, A Hume, M Johnson, G Lester, C Murdoch; A Ingham, H Osherson, J Timu, S Booth, D Batty, L Campbell, S Redfern, P Gill; Subs: R Best, M Salter, K Chesney, D Peters

Referee: C Morris (Huddersfield)

CYCLING

Stephens reaches summit

MATT STEPHENS won the 130 miles national road race championship, based on a circuit east of Solihull, yesterday with a panache rarely seen on home roads.

Stephens was third last year and previously, as an amateur, had won a silver medal and also gained a fourth place. The 16-mile undulating circuit was not tailor-made for Stephens, who prefers the inclusion of a hill where the field is more likely to split.

"I felt good and tested the opposition with 20 miles to go and then put in a serious attack 14 miles from the end," he said. That move took him clear, but his lead from Roger Hammond and Darren Barclay never exceeded 20 seconds. "It looked so tight that I only in the last 400 yards did I believe I could win," Stephens said.

MOTORCYCLING: TEENAGER OVERCOMES EARLY SETBACK TO FINISH FIRST GRAND PRIX

Haslam shows rich promise on debut

THE teenager joined in combat with the men, and in doing so took a huge step towards becoming a man himself. Leon Haslam, barely past his fifteenth birthday, took on the best riders in the world at Donington Park yesterday and emerged with another battle honour emblazoned on the family escutcheon.

Haslam, given a wild-card entry into the 125cc British Grand Prix after an immensely promising start to his big-time racing career in the British championship this year, acquitted himself proudly in a competition in which no account is taken, or asked, of youth and lack of experience. For all its speed and vitality, this is a sport for the cool, calm and collected. Off his bike, Haslam is a boy. On it, he is 15 going on 25.

The son of the erstwhile leading British rider, Ron Haslam, the slightly-built youngster was not disgraced by his eventual seventeenth place. He lost time on the first lap when he was nudged onto the grass at Craner Curves and thereafter was always playing catch-up. The manner of his doing so belied his tender years as he put together a ride of astonishing maturity.



Crafer storms clear to win the 500cc race at Donington Park yesterday

It would have been easy for him to allow the incident to rattle him, to induce an adrenalin-fired surge of speed for its own sake. Had it happened, he would probably not have finished the race. Instead he held his nerve and coolly concentrated on working his way through the field. It was impressive stuff.

He had gone into the race after an incident-packed two days of practice. On Friday, a day on which his father and the rest of his support team were concentrating on getting the set-up of his Honda right, he fell off, injuring his right heel in the process and reducing his available practice time.

The next day he took another tumble, but instead of letting the falls upset him, he used them to his own purpose. Twice he had exceeded his limits; now he knew what they were, he rode within them.

"I was pretty pleased with the way things went," he said after becoming the only Briton to finish the race. "This weekend has been a real eye-opener for me, just being with the best riders in the world in the paddock and on the track. I'm really excited with the way things have gone." Suddenly, the cold-eyed pragmatist had become a wide-eyed lad again.

The race was won by Kazuo Sakata, of Japan, riding an Aprilia, who extended his lead in the world championship to 46 points by beating the teenage Italian, Mirko Giansanti, with a precisely-timed surge deep into the last lap. Sakata, the most experienced man in the race, overcame a dreadful start, when he almost stalled on the start line, to beat Giansanti by a mere 43sec.

In the top race of the day, the 500cc grand prix Simon Crafer, the former Superbike rider who is in his first full season in the class, had his maiden victory on his Yamaha to follow his third place in the Dutch Grand Prix at Assen the week before.

The New Zealander beat the winner last year, Mick Doohan, of Australia, riding a Honda, by more than 11 seconds, with Norick Abe, of Japan, third on another Yamaha. "We were in a totally different race to Simon out there," Doohan said graciously. "He just rode the wheels off the thing." He did, too.

TRIATHLON

Australian imports prove their worth

ANDREW JOHNS has come a long way in a short time, figuratively and literally. Johns, who uprooted from Australia last month to compete for Great Britain, added the European title at the weekend to the British championship he had taken at Ellesmere four weeks earlier.

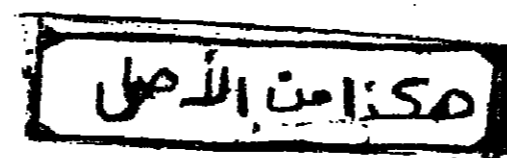
As Spencer Smith, Britain's former world champion, could finish only fourth in defence of his title in Velden, Austria, Johns was one of two imported Australians who won gold medals for Britain. Beth Thomson, who also decided this season to switch allegiance, claimed the junior women's title.

Not that Britain's home-grown triathletes had to suffer in silence as the g'days went round. Steph Forrester, from Aberdeen, confirmed her position as Britain's new No.1, taking the senior women's bronze medal. Tim Don, who has risen through the English ranks, finished runner-up in the junior men's event.

"I was so happy. I had a big grin on my face about 500 metres from the line," Johns said. A grin matched by the British Triathlon Association, which can barely believe its good fortune at the sackful of Australian talent with British passports that has landed on its doorstep.

The grinning started for Johns, who was born in Peterborough, after he opened a gap on a steep downhill two kilometres from the finish. "I just let myself go and, when I looked back, I had a gap of 30 to 40 metres," Johns, who eventually finished a second clear, said.

Forrester emerged from the swim fifteenth and just missed the leading bike group, but the second pack soon caught the front riders. "To be competitive and win a medal outside Great Britain is one step up for me," she said.



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MONDAY

GOLF: MISTAKE BY MONTGOMERIE COSTS HIM CHANCE TO WIN THIRD SUCCESSIVE MURPHY'S IRISH OPEN

Carter holds nerve to win after play-off

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT AT DRUID'S GLEN
FROM start to finish, Colin Montgomerie's formidable presence hung over the Murphy's Irish Open...



Montgomerie's uncharacteristic error on his approach to the 18th during the play-off proved costly

Montgomerie had birdied moments earlier. Carter chose to use a wood for his second shot, which lay in a bunker, sliced his ball wildly and finished with a six.

For a bogey, his second in three holes. It looked as though he had made a mess of it when he drove to the right and then hit an iron accurately enough to avoid a nearby tree...

DETAILS

LEADING FINAL SCORES (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 278: C Montgomerie 65, 74, 71, 68; D Carter 68, 72, 67, 71 (Carter won 1 play-off); 280: P Sizer 69, 70, 66, 70; J McHenry 70, 65, 70, 72...

SPORT IN BRIEF

Bugner becomes oldest champion

BOXING: Joe Bugner, a 48-year-old grandfather, had as hard a time contending with the jeers of disappointed fans as he did beating James Smith in Australia on Saturday...

System makes its point

BOWLS: Buckinghamshire, who have never won the Middleton Cup, qualified for the quarter-finals of the inter-county championship on Saturday...

Sri Lanka reach final

CRICKET: Sri Lanka will meet India in the final of the triangular Independence Cup tournament tomorrow after beating New Zealand by 87 runs in Colombo...

Gump matches best

GOLF: Scott Gump, in search of his first top-ten finish in three years, matched the best round on the US PGA Tour this season with a 62, eight under par, for the halfway lead at the Greater Hartford Open in Connecticut...

Hall to serve suspension

SWIMMING: Gary Hall, the United States swimmer who finished runner-up to Alexander Popov, of Russia, in the Olympic 50m and 100m freestyle finals in Atlanta...

Chambon times it right

MOTORCYCLING: Stéphane Chambon rode a perfect tactical race to win the sixth round of the World Supersport championship in Kyalami, South Africa...

Christensen ends wait

BADMINTON: Peter Gade Christensen, of Denmark, the world No 1 and top seed, won the Malaysian Open title at the fifth attempt yesterday...

McKay gives herself chance to emulate Woods

MHAIRI MCKAY, of Scotland, can claim Tiger Woods among her friends from her days at Stanford University in California. After a 73, the joint best of the day, in the third round of the US Women's Open here, she had the chance to emulate him...

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN KOHLER, WISCONSIN

that brought her so many honours as an amateur. She won back-to-back British Girls' championships and played on both the 1994 and 1996 Curtis Cup teams.

winner, Alison Nicholas, are the only Britons to win the most coveted prize in women's golf. With a Korean, a Scot and a Swede comprising the top three, the odds were stacked against an American winning for the first time since Patty Sheehan in 1994.

With gusting winds making the already demanding Blackwolf Run course an even more severe challenge, McKay, 23, whose game was honed on the links of Turnberry, put together one over par score to finish 1 shot off the lead held by Se Ri Pak.



A tight-lipped McKay watches a birdie putt slip past the hole during her third round of 73 on Saturday

"I'm loving every minute of it. I'm having such fun," she said as she looked forward to going out alongside Pak in the final pairing. "I've watched the US Open so many times on television and this is all beyond my wildest dreams."

POLO

Laird lord it over Labegorce

LABEGORCE, the holders of the Veve Cicquot Gold Cup for the British open championship, were beaten 12-5 by Richard Britten-Long's team, Laird, in league D of this year's competition.

SAILING

Soldini still stricken by loss

JUST over two months after the disastrous finale to his last transatlantic crossing, Giovanni Soldini, the leading Italian single-handed ocean racing skipper, yesterday set sail to take on the Atlantic again, this time against Mike Golding, of Great Britain.

SPEEDWAY

Ipswich get final wheels in front

IPSWICH put one wheel in the Speedway Star Cup final with a convincing win at Eastbourne on Saturday night. It was the third time this season they have won at Eastbourne, a track renowned for giving the home side a big advantage.

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES Win a VIP trip to the British Grand Prix and World Cup Final. Includes logos for Kid Jensen Racing, Budweiser, and a large image of a trophy.

tory tail

EGATTA

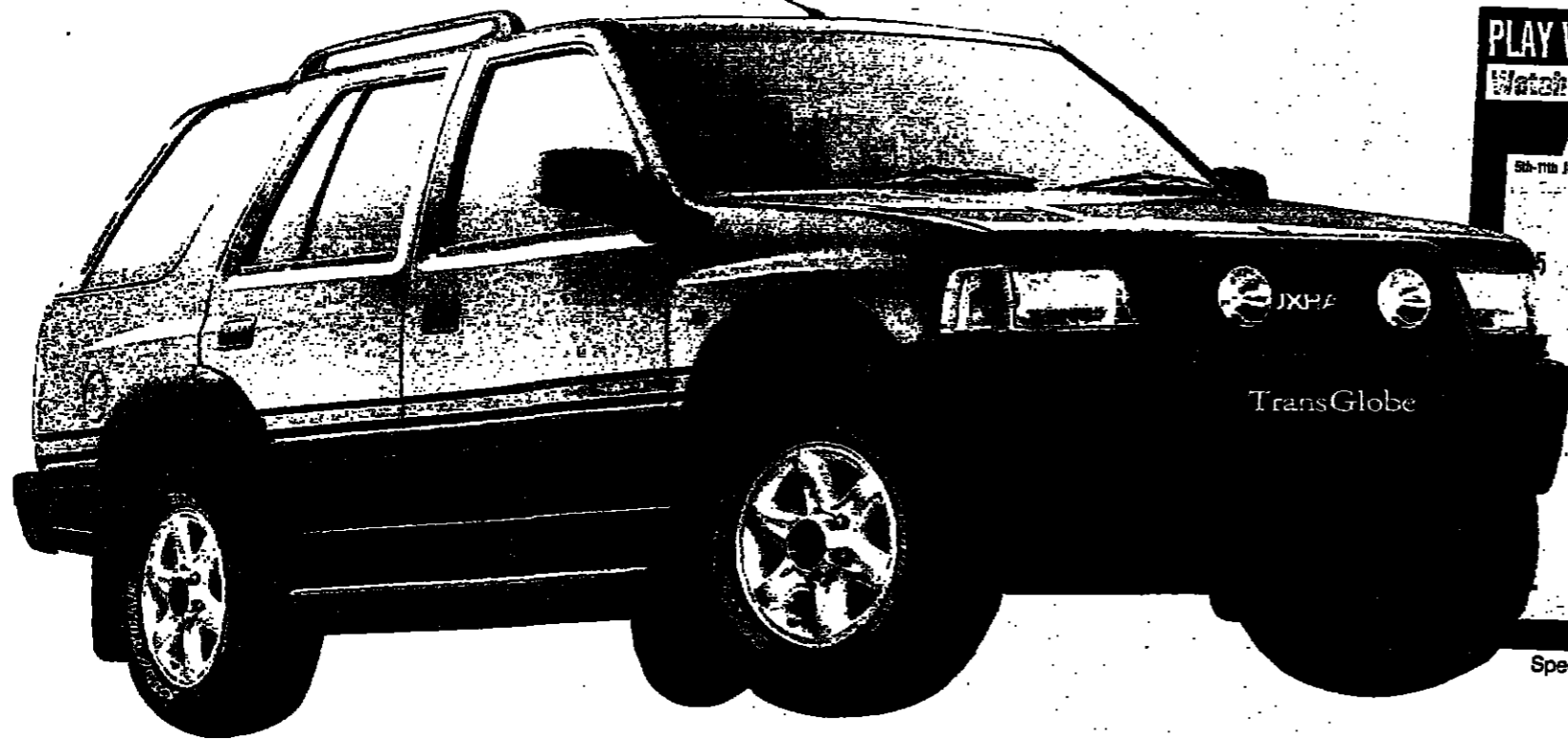
million impro... their work

Cash... only

AN EXCLUSIVE WORLD CUP GAME

THE TIMES

CASH PRIZES AND CARS WORTH £45,000 TO BE WON



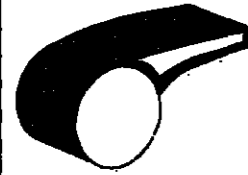
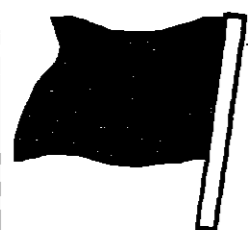
- Reveal three matching symbols today and you could win up to £5,000
- Tune into ITV's World Cup coverage for more chances to win big prizes



Find your Team Check gamecard for the World Cup 98 semi-finals and final inserted in today's paper for the chance to win a cash prize and a Vauxhall car. There is £5,000 in cash and a Vauxhall Vectra Arctic, worth more than £14,500, to be won by playing Team Check in The Times and The Sunday Times. Another £5,000 in cash and a Vauxhall Frontera Estate TransGlobe, worth more than £19,500, can be won by playing Team Check when you watch ITV's coverage of the World Cup semi-finals and 3rd & 4th place play-off this week and next Sunday's final in St Denis



REVEAL THREE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS TO WIN A PRIZE



DON'T SCRATCH UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THE RULES

HOW TO PLAY THE TIMES GAMES

Look for these names on your gamecard

GALLACHER 22

ALDAIR 3

McMANAMAN 11

On your Team Check card, inserted in today's paper, there are two games to be played simultaneously in The Times this week - Chance 1 and Chance 2. On each game you will find 11 silver football shirts with players' names and squad numbers. To play, study the names of the 16 World Cup 98 players which will be printed in The Times this week. The first three names appear above. If any of the names above match the names on The Times Chance 1 or Chance 2 panels of your gamecard scratch them off. DO NOT scratch off any names that do not appear or your gamecard will be void.

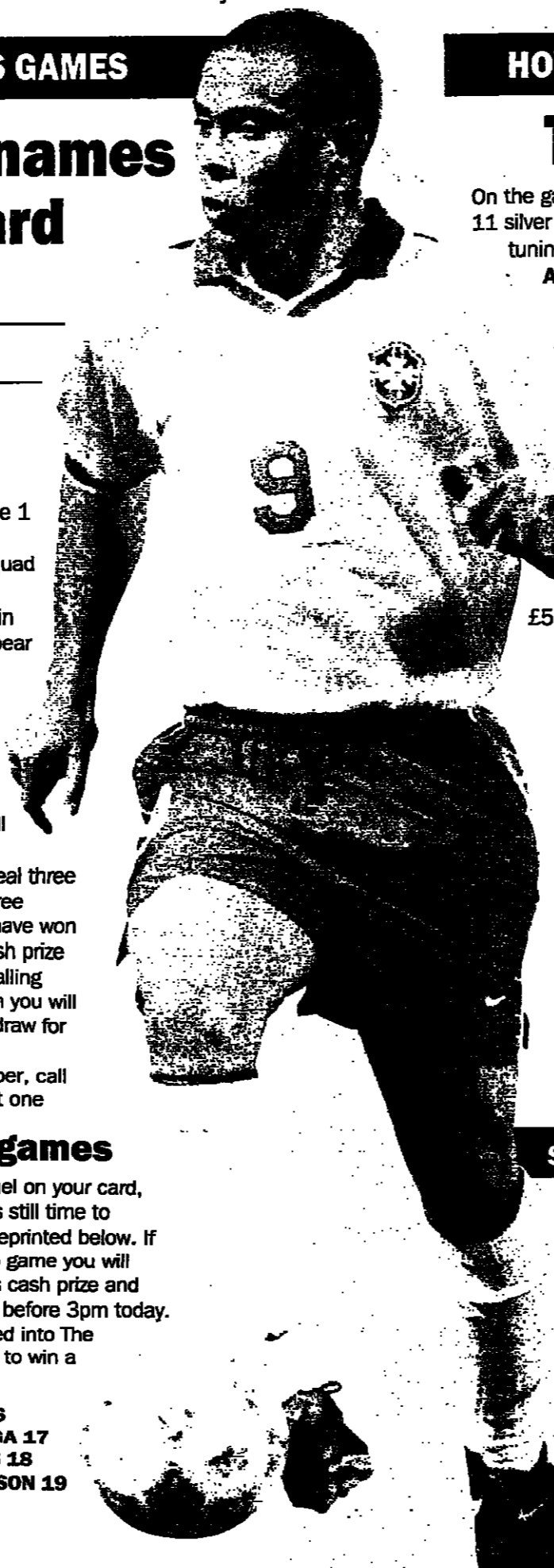
Beneath each shirt, where the name on the card matches one of those listed above, you will reveal a symbol: a football, a whistle, a boot, a cup, a linesman's flag or a footballer. If you reveal three identical symbols on the Chance 1 game, or three identical symbols on the Chance 2 game, you have won a share of The Times/Sunday Times £5,000 cash prize and must make a claim before 3pm today by calling 0191-501 1240. By making a successful claim you will be entered into The Times/Sunday Times prize draw for the chance to win a Vauxhall Vectra Arctic.

● If your gamecard is missing from today's paper, call 0171-481 3355 during office hours to request one

Play The Sunday Times games

There are two games on The Sunday Times panel on your card, the July 5 game and the July 12 game. There is still time to play the July 5 game using the players names reprinted below. If you reveal three identical symbols on the July 5 game you will win a share of the £5,000 Times/Sunday Times cash prize and must make a claim by calling 0191-501 1240 before 3pm today. By making a successful claim you will be entered into The Times/Sunday Times prize draw for the chance to win a Vauxhall Vectra Arctic.

- | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|
| SEAMAN 1 | BERGKAMP 8 | FLO 16 |
| MATTHAUS 2 | SHEARER 9 | ORTEGA 17 |
| RIEPER 3 | ZIDANE 10 | SALAS 18 |
| HENDRY 4 | COLLINS 11 | DENILSON 19 |
| ADAMS 5 | RAUL 14 | |
| CARLOS R 6 | OLISEN 15 | |



HOW TO PLAY THE ITV GAME WITH VAUXHALL

Tune in from Tuesday

On the gamecard panel for this week's ITV/Vauxhall Team Check game you will find 11 silver football shirts with numbers between 1 and 22. Play this week's game by tuning in to the semi-final and 3rd & 4th place play-off matches on ITV.

At the beginning and end of the commercial breaks there will be a Vauxhall sponsorship clip. During each live World Cup match broadcast on ITV, at least eight white numbers will appear in the top left-hand corner of your TV screen in the sponsorship clips. Team Check numbers will also appear in the Vauxhall clips during the breaks in ITV's highlight programmes.

The more you watch the more chances you have to win. If any of these numbers appear on the 11 silver football shirts on this week's ITV/Vauxhall panel on your gamecard scratch them off. DO NOT scratch off any numbers that do not appear in the clips. Under each silver football shirt is a symbol: a football, a whistle, a boot, a cup, a linesman's flag or a footballer. If you reveal three identical symbols you have won a share of the ITV/Vauxhall £5,000 Team Check prize and must follow the claims procedure below

WHEN TO WATCH ITV

Vauxhall Team Check numbers for this week's game will appear in the sponsorship clips during these ITV World Cup programmes:

Either: Tuesday, July 7 first semi-final, at 8pm.

Or: Wednesday, July 8 second semi-final, at 8pm.

Look out on ITV and in The Times daily TV listings for details of the semi-final to be broadcast live on ITV.

Saturday, July 11 World Cup Special, 2.20pm to 3.20pm and the 3rd & 4th place play-off, at 8pm

HOW TO MAKE A CLAIM

If you reveal three identical symbols you have won a share of the £5,000 cash prize for the ITV/Vauxhall games and must make a claim on the Team Check hotline 0191-501 1240 on the next working day between 9.30am and 3pm, from Wednesday July 8 to Monday July 13. By making a successful claim you will also be entered into the ITV/Vauxhall prize draw for the chance to win a spacious 4x4 Vauxhall Frontera Estate TransGlobe

SEE THE VAUXHALL CLIPS ON ITV FOR YOUR NUMBERS

Two cars, World Cup trips and £10,000 for Week 3 Team Check winners

David Janovskis, from Swinton, Manchester, won a Vauxhall Corsa Breeze and £1,000 in The Times/Sunday Times Team Check Week 3 game. Simon Gomersall, from Canterbury, won a trip for two to both World Cup semi-final matches and £1,000. Kevin Manning, from Southampton, Clare Curran, from Leatherhead, Surrey, and Jack Chew, from Ashford, Kent, each won £1,000. In the ITV/Vauxhall Team Check Week 3 game William Bradbeer, London SE21, won a Corsa Breeze, £5,000 and a trip for two to the World Cup Final.

● Vauxhall Motors is an official sponsor of World Cup 98 and sponsor of ITV's tournament coverage. The prizes of cars from Vauxhall include UK delivery, number plates and road tax. Insurance is the responsibility of the winners. For information about the Vauxhall range and details of your nearest dealer call 0345 400 800. www.vauxhall.co.uk

SEE THE TIMES TOMORROW FOR MORE CHANCES TO WIN PLAYING TEAM CHECK

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

RUGBY UNION: ENGLAND COACH RETAINS CLEAR VISION AFTER TOUR ENDS IN MUDDY DEFEAT

Woodward draws some southern comfort

South Africa 18
England 0

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN CAPE TOWN

SO ENGLAND'S odyssey ends as it began, in defeat. Almost, indeed, in irrelevance, so appalling were the conditions in which South Africa and England slugged out the final match of this southern-hemisphere tour on Saturday, under weeping skies that turned the Newlands playing surface into a treacherous quagmire, incapable of sustaining running rugby.

over his shoulder. Woodward feels under no threat. "I know my year of coaching doesn't look too healthy at the moment but you have to look at the bigger picture and I know I have made the right decisions if we are to win the World Cup," he said. Nor should he feel downcast. Presented with an impossible scenario, the coaching team of Woodward and John Mitchell has made as much progress as the likes of Matt Dawson, Ben Clarke, Graham Rowntree and Pat Sanderson have as players.

not coming on this trip. Lawrence has passed over the captaincy and his No 6 shirt. The two star guys on this trip have been the captain and the No 6, Ben Clarke. But we all know Lawrence is a world-class player, and he knows the situation.

larly muddy bottom on Saturday, which gave South Africa far more cause for pleasure than England, who exercised neither authority nor control in any phase of the game.

England lineup, which has worked well on tour, struggled to such an extent that South Africa dominated the phase 25-6, including three takes on England's throw.

South Africa held 20 in internationals record by James Small, but for the authority of his kicking. Behind a pack that eased England's flankers away from him, the scrum half gave full rein to his skills.

DETAILS FROM NEWLANDS

SCORERS: South Africa: Tries: Van der Westhuizen (22m), Terblanche (38). Conversion: Montgomery. Penalty goals: Montgomery 2 (55, 75). SCORING SEQUENCE (South Africa first): 7-0, 12-0 (half-time), 15-0, 18-0.

His trump card was Joost van der Westhuizen, not so much for the try he scored by charging down Lewsey's clearance, which equalled the

Size counts in pursuit of today's trout

Is big best? Brian Clarke weighs up the pros and cons of stocking policy

Last month I found myself a guest of two hallowed fly fishing clubs and, at the end of each day, exchanging views with a group of members on the bank. On each occasion, the conversation turned to stocking policy. On each occasion, the same tensions among members surfaced.

Broadly speaking, the younger members wanted bigger fish to be made available while older hands wanted to continue as in the past that is, with stocking trout of a size not greatly larger than those already naturally found in the river.

Few trout waters can sustain today's levels of angling pressure without extra fish being put in.

The possibility of catching a big fish — not necessarily big in absolute terms but big for the water from which it is taken — is for many one of the great buzzes of angling. While some big fish are caught by luck, most are caught by skill and stratagem, and so a whopper has become a symbol of prowess.

Of late, however, size — now absolute size — has become more and more important. It has been pushed by commercial fisheries and promoted by a largely uncritical tabloid angling press. People want to catch big fish? Put big fish in. People want to catch monsters? Stock monsters.

The pursuit of absolute size has resulted in some small lake fisheries stocking nothing but gigantic fish — including fish of 20lb and more. That such waters stock immense fish and some anglers want to catch them is neither here nor there. Now that the wild-fish records have been fenced off, the stocking of huge fish in lakes is a matter solely for those involved because lakes are self-contained and nothing else is affected.

Rivers, though, are different. It is not just that what is done on one reach can affect other reaches. Virtually all rivers that offer trout fishing have a small head of wild fish remaining and purely for conservation reasons there has to be an interest in preserving them.

Enter the problems. When big, farm-bred fish are put into the river, they instinctively seek out the best feeding places. Because they have the muscle and teeth to do so, they drive away the largest of the wild fish already occupying these lies and those fish drive away the fish holding the next best lies. It is a domino-effect all the way down the wild fish structure. It results in many fish being driven to lies that cannot sustain them. These fish lose condition. Some of them die. The natural stock is eroded.

There are other consequences. Big stock fish will prey on small wild fish. In winter, when the native fish and the stocked fish move

onto the spawning beds, the bigger stock fish will often dig out the eggs as they struggle to bury their own. More insidiously, stock trout may mate with wild trout, just as in Scotland escaped farm salmon have been shown to mate with wild salmon. The result is a weakening of the genetic integrity of the wild fish population and a longer-term threat to wild fish survival.

For these reasons and others, stocking decisions on rivers need much thought. In the case of a democratically run club, all will depend on two points. The first is the value the majority of members place on their wild fish heritage. The second is what they decide they want from their fishing, not just in the short term but the long.

I am no purist in these matters. Rivers and fishing — like the interests of clubs — will be effectively defended only so long as enough anglers are getting from them what they want. And that means a wide range of preferences must in some way be met. Certainly I am not one of those who would be content to fish for two-ounce trout all the time, no matter how wild they might be. I have also had some of my most exciting days stalking big rainbow trout — fish from 3lb to 5lb — in a couple of gin-clear rivers. But fishing for big fish all the time would be just as boring as fishing for little fish all the time.

Some other kinds of fishing can bore too. Waters so heavily stocked that a hooked fish dare not jump out for fear of not getting back in take away all challenge. Waters where the numbers put in are so niggardly that little can be expected no matter how great the effort are a turn-off. Waters that are stocked with fish all the same size, whether half a pound or 2½lb, make for monotony.

A really successful stocking policy — and one surprisingly rarely found — would, in my view, meet three criteria. First, it would offer a real possibility of sport to an average rod, but not certainty; that is, the number stocked would be modest but not miserly. Second, it would offer variety, in that the angler would never quite know what was going to poke up its nose or grab his fly next. So a range of fish sizes would be covered, these sizes not wildly out of keeping with the water being fished.

Third — less important than the other two but offering a real bonus — the stocking would give the possibility of a once-in-a-lifetime or twice-in-a-lifetime catch. This would be a rod of fish that would run around the grapevine, the kind of fish that would put a catch in the breath and pull an angler's heart into his mouth if he hooks it.

Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month

Kevin Eason on the veteran English driver waiting for his big chance

Herbert continues to take a back seat

Johnny Herbert could get Formula One motor racing a bad name. Eternally cheerful even in adversity, he is also honest and full of the candour often absent from a world dominated by intrigue and broken promises.



Herbert has yet to have his contract with Sauber renewed and has spoken with several other team owners

Unfortunately, he arrived to discover a team that revolved entirely around Michael Schumacher. Even a man with Herbert's equilibrium could not cope with being denied test time and ignored by the team's quixotic principal, Flavio Briatore.

his way then we are in trouble," he said. "If I have a problem, there is no point in getting annoyed. You just get on with it. I try to stay calm and talk about it to the people involved. It's just when he goes off his head and slaps everybody off, that's when it hurts the team, and I am part of that team. When

you are having problems with everything else, as we have been, then it becomes quite difficult for everybody." Relations with Peter Sauber, the team's owner, are also thought to have been strained lately because he has refused to commit to Herbert, whose contract runs out this year. With a gaggle of young drivers

trying to burst into Formula One, employing a battle-hardened veteran of 33 could appeal to a team manager looking for a driver with a cool head and easy attitude.

Heinz-Harald Frentzen, Herbert's first team-mate at Sauber, seems certain to leave Williams while the future of his world champion team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, is also in doubt. He is tipped to join Craig Pollock, his former manager, at the new British American Racing Team next year.



Today with The Times: A 16-page guide to the British Grand Prix at Silverstone

driver, such as Herbert, alongside his protégé. However, there is speculation that Damon Hill will leave Jordan and Eddie Jordan, the team owner, will not stand in his way.

Herbert said: "I have had a little natter with Frank, a little natter with Prost and a little natter with Eddie. I am only doing it because I don't know what Peter is thinking. Maybe he wants Heinz-Harald back. "Williams would be a good one. If there are big changes, then it opens a few doors for me. I have certainly got a few years left in me. The trouble is that my contract runs out this year. I am happy with Sauber, although obviously I would like the results to be better and the team to be stronger, but the potential is there. We need some luck and then we can be running in the top five or six."

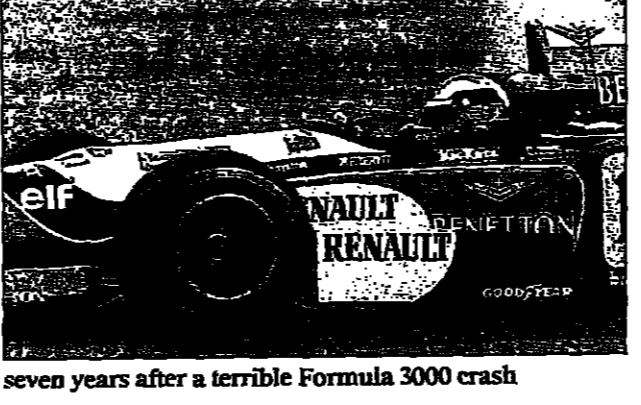
Herbert is unlikely to be more than a bit player in the British Grand Prix on Sunday but his view on the championship is unique in that he has partnered both the leading contenders, Schumacher and Mika Hakkinen, and can sympathise with the predicament of Hakkinen's team-mate, David Coulthard, who lags behind in the title race.

"Michael is much more selfish," he said. "He is much more the man who says 'I will do anything to win', whereas Mika says 'I will be the quickest to win'. But I don't think Michael will win this year because the Bridgestone tyres and McLaren are still strong."

Alesi has brought with him what the British describe as a "Latin temperament", a characteristic that Herbert has decided is best ignored for the sake of the team, although the change of atmosphere might force him to move again to revive his career. "I can be OK but when things don't go



Herbert wins the 1995 British Grand Prix, right, seven years after a terrible Formula 3000 crash



Muazam graduates in class of his own

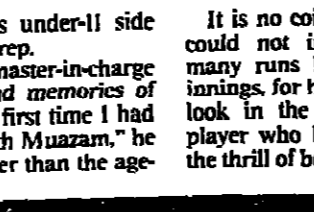
THE transition from prolific schoolboy batsman who does much as he pleases with teenage bowling attacks to professional first-class cricketer is a colossal one. Then again, Muazam Ali, 18, has never been just a schoolboy cricketer.

fractured collarbone an injury he picked up attempting a catch. There are no ifs and buts about it: cricket is Muazam's life, and he now wants to make it his living.

Not that such thoughts would have been in his mind as a podgy nine-year-old making his first appearance for his school's under-11 side against Brentwood Prep.

group and we were chasing 140-odd for victory. They had a couple of Essex Schools bowlers and I was concerned that he wouldn't have the power to pierce the infield, so I opened with him. He got 73 not out and won the match. It was clear to me then that he was better than most."

as far as possible. He is also a paradigm for the hard work that is needed to excel. Clive Radley, who has seen a great deal of Muazam over the past two years as a member of the Lord's groundsstaff, talks of him as having "all the shots", but that hides the hours of dedicated practice he puts in with Frank Griffiths, the school coach, and the former Derbyshire player's brother, Victor.



Muazam has all the shots and sharpens them through hard work

It is no coincidence that Muazam could not instantly recollect how many runs he had scored in that innings, for he has never been one to look in the scorebook. Here is a player who bats for enjoyment, for the thrill of belting a ball as hard and

That man now coaches Muazam all year round, at least once a week, mostly at Chigwell School's indoor sports centre, opened by Graham Gooch in 1990.

It was Gooch who contacted Muazam recently about the possibility of playing for Durham. Gooch is understandably cagey about Muazam's chances of making it. Too many young bright hopes have faded in the English game, but, as Frank Griffiths said: "I have seen many first-class cricketers with a lot less talent than Muazam."

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Table with columns for TODAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY and sub-sections for CRICKET, RUGBY LEAGUE, RUGBY UNION, BOWLS, SWIMMING, and EQUESTRIANISM.

trips and £10.00 Check winners

£5,000 big prizes

FRANCE 98

WALSLEY

WALSLEY

WALSLEY

WALSLEY

WALSLEY

38 SPORT

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

Track and field

110m hurdles: 1. B. Werning (Shabshab) 1:42.2; 2. R. G. ... 400m hurdles: 1. B. Werning (Shabshab) 5:52.2; 2. A. ...

110m hurdles

110m hurdles: 1. B. Werning (Shabshab) 1:42.2; 2. R. G. ... 400m hurdles: 1. B. Werning (Shabshab) 5:52.2; 2. A. ...

400m hurdles

400m hurdles: 1. B. Werning (Shabshab) 5:52.2; 2. A. ... 800m hurdles: 1. B. Werning (Shabshab) 11:45.0; 2. ...

800m hurdles

800m hurdles: 1. B. Werning (Shabshab) 11:45.0; 2. ... 1500m hurdles: 1. B. Werning (Shabshab) 17:30.0; 2. ...

1500m hurdles

1500m hurdles: 1. B. Werning (Shabshab) 17:30.0; 2. ... 5000m hurdles: 1. B. Werning (Shabshab) 43:00.0; 2. ...

RUGBY LEAGUE

JUB Super League: Huddersfield 6 Halifax 48. Huddersfield 6 Halifax 48. Huddersfield 6 Halifax 48.

London Broncos 34 Rochdale 8. Hull Kingston Rovers 34 Rochdale 8. Hull Kingston Rovers 34 Rochdale 8.

Widnes Vikings 24 Huddersfield 8. Widnes Vikings 24 Huddersfield 8. Widnes Vikings 24 Huddersfield 8.

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Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows for various clubs like Widnes, Huddersfield, Hull Kingston Rovers.

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Peter Gill, the London Broncos forward, looks to make ground in the Broncos' 38-6 victory over Hull Sharks at the Stoop Memorial ground yesterday afternoon. Match report, page 34. Photograph: Tony White

CYCLING

ROAD RACES: British Open championship: 1. M. ... 2. ... 3. ...

MOTORCYCLING

DOMINGTON PARK: British Grand Prix: 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

CLUB CRICKET

PROV NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY LEAGUE: 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Friday, Boston 15 Chicago White Sox 2; Toronto 3 Tampa Bay 10.

POOL CHECK

VICTORIA: Second division: E. Burwood 4 Broadmeads 0; Parkston 5 Richmond 2.

GOLF

HULLDOCK PARK: 2.35 1. P. ... 2. ... 3. ...

NOTTINGHAM

6.50 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

BEVERLEY

2.00 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

WOLVERHAMPTON

6.30 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

CHEPSTOW

2.25 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

CARLISLE

6.40 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

NOTTINGHAM

6.50 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

WOLVERHAMPTON

6.30 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

CHEPSTOW

2.25 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

CARLISLE

6.40 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

NOTTINGHAM

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BEVERLEY

2.00 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

WOLVERHAMPTON

6.30 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

CHEPSTOW

2.25 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

CARLISLE

6.40 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

NOTTINGHAM

6.50 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

WOLVERHAMPTON

6.30 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

CHEPSTOW

2.25 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

CARLISLE

6.40 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

NOTTINGHAM

6.50 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

BEVERLEY

2.00 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

WOLVERHAMPTON

6.30 1. ... 2. ... 3. ...

Large advertisement for 'DAILY NEWS' featuring a horse and rider. The text includes 'DAILY NEWS', 'Horse', and '153-39721'.

RACING: FAVOURITE IN COMMAND AS GODOLPHIN TAKES FIRST THREE PLACES AT SANDOWN

Daylami shines in total Eclipse

By Richard Evans RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE rather portly gentleman with the microphone will remain anonymous — although his opening question in the aftermath of Godolphin's remarkable 1-2-3 in the Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park on Saturday deserves a place in the interviewers' Hall of Shame. "Has it gone according to plan?" he asked Simon Crisford, the Godolphin racing manager, after Daylami had led home his stablemates Faithful Son and Central Park to create racing history.

Lynda Ramsden is to give up training at the end of the flat season. "There is no specific reason, we just decided we wanted to do something else while we were still relatively young and mobile," she said.



The grey Daylami leads home a Godolphin clean sweep in the Coral-Eclipse Stakes from Faithful Son, right, and Central Park, left.

Lynda Ramsden is to give up training at the end of the flat season. "There is no specific reason, we just decided we wanted to do something else while we were still relatively young and mobile," she said.

some time that Sheikh Mohammed, in particular, has only a passing interest in his other racing team, Darley Stud Management, with its maroon and white silks. The apparent disillusion with Darley, compared to the involvement and pleasure he gains from Godolphin, would appear to be behind the decision to streamline the operation and suddenly dispense with the services of Robert Acton, the stud director, and Justin Wadham, the managing director. It would be no surprise to see further departures in the months to come, and Darley could be confined to breeding while Godolphin becomes the racing arm of Sheikh Mohammed's empire. Frankie Dettori has not enjoyed the best of luck in the Eclipse and was anxious to set the record straight, especially as his father won the race in 1976. Given the way Daylami stayed on to reverse

the Prince of Wales's Stakes form with Faithful Son, Dettori and Saeed bin Suroor, the Godolphin trainer, are confident he will stay further. The four-year-old is likely to join Swain and a pacemaker in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot on July 25.

The search for a top sprinter moves to Newmarket this week when up to 20 are expected to tackle the Darley July Cup — and two owners are hoping lightning can strike twice. Michael Brower, a restaurateur, and Lord Hambleton were members of the Highclere syndicate which owned Lake Norman, who won the July Cup in 1994 before being sold for £2.4 million. Now they are in another Highclere syndicate which owns Tamarisk, one of the fancied runners for the six-furlong crown on Thursday. The sizeable field will include three progressive

three-year-olds, each with the potential to develop into a top sprinter. Diktat, the winner of the Jersey Stakes, attempts to follow the example of such previous winners as Ajal, Polish Patriot and Soviet Star, who successfully stepped back in time. Tamarisk, second to Xaar in the Dewhurst Stakes last year, impressed when beating Arkadian Hero at Lingfield in May. All three feature towards the head of Ladbrokes' book on the day. The company bets: 5-1 Diktat and Elmadim, 7-1 Arkadian Hero and Tamarisk, 10-1 Ashrakat, Bold Face and Bollin Jumbo, 11-1 others.

LEADERS ON THE FLAT

Table with columns: Trainer, Horse, Wins, Runs, % Wins, % Runs. Lists top performers like J. Berry, J. Gosden, and J. Dettori.

Table with columns: Jockey, Wins, Runs, % Wins, % Runs. Lists top jockeys like F. Dettori, S. Leighton, and J. P. Murray.

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER 2.15 Get Stuck in, 2.45 Mystique Air, 3.15 Keep Battling, 3.45 Mukarrab, 4.15 Brodessa, 4.45 Sing And Dance.

2.15 EBF MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O, £2,880, 5f) (5)

- 1 (1) 0222 CARTER PARK 16 (P) J Berry 9-0 ... C Lowther 70
2 (2) 0208 GET STUCK IN 16 (M) P Jones 9-0 ... J Weaver 70
3 (3) 0209 INVESTMENT HERO 16 (M) Jackson 9-0 ... J Carroll 68
4 (4) 0204 SUGAR CURE TREAT 28 (M) McEvoy 8-9 ... J Clumack 58

3.45 MCEWANS EXPORT LE GARCON D'OR HANDICAP (€3,172, 5f) (17)

- 1 (1) 0100 SCHWABERST 280 (F) S J Dalton 6-10-0 ... D McKeown 71
2 (2) 0103 ANDREW J GOLD (M) Jones 6-9-0 ... R Clutton 69
3 (3) 0117 PIRATE 19 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-9-0 ... J. Clifton 68
4 (4) 0105 SUDO SMOKE 252 (M) Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Foyan 68
5 (5) 0106 MIDWINTER 12 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 67

4.15 KRONENBOURG 1864 CLAIMING STAKES (€2,785, 2m) (6)

- 1 (1) 0254 SPARK DANCER 10 (M) Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 71
2 (2) 0111 GOLD HAZEL 12 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 70
3 (3) 0107 THREE TRENTERS (M) J. Clifton 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 70
4 (4) 0108 SUPER BELL 7 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 70
5 (5) 0109 HAZEL STONE 21 (M) Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 69

4.45 BEANISH HANDICAP (€3,652, 1m 40f) (8)

- 1 (1) 0112 ETERNITY 23 (M) J. Foyan 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 75
2 (2) 0102 OUR WAY 3 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 75
3 (3) 0113 LADY RACHEL 21 (M) J. Clifton 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 74
4 (4) 0104 MISS RICHIE 19 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 73
5 (5) 0105 HILL FARMER 19 (M) J. Clifton 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 73

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C. J. Bell 12 wins from 20 starts, 60% win rate, 20% place rate. J. Gosden 10 wins from 20 starts, 50% win rate, 20% place rate.

8.15 RIVERSIDE INN PUBLIC HOUSE BOVEY TRACEY HANDICAP HURDLE (€2,246, 2m 10f) (10)

- 1 (1) 3112 MASTER MILLFIELD 9 (M) P. Jones 6-10-0 ... J. Harris 71
2 (2) 3120 IT'S WALLACE 25 (M) J. Clifton 6-10-0 ... J. Clifton 70
3 (3) 3121 GALE DE BARRA 19 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-10-0 ... J. Clifton 69
4 (4) 3117 AUTUMN 19 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-10-0 ... J. Clifton 68
5 (5) 3111 BRIGHT ECLIPSE 16 (M) P. Jones 6-10-0 ... J. Clifton 67

8.45 EXETER INN PUBLIC HOUSE SIDMOUTH HANDICAP CHASE (€3,388, 2m 11f) (7)

- 1 (1) 21P ANDROLY 236 (M) P. Jones 6-11-0 ... W. Mason 71
2 (2) 21S MANHURST 201 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-11-0 ... W. Mason 70
3 (3) 21Q POLLEN PRIZE 10 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-11-0 ... W. Mason 69
4 (4) 21R WINTER BRIDGE 18 (M) P. Jones 6-11-0 ... W. Mason 68
5 (5) 21X SWEET COCKADE 18 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-11-0 ... W. Mason 67

9.15 SAPPHIRE AND DIAMONDS NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (€1,131, 2m 10f) (8)

- 1 (1) 1-8 WATERLOO 28 (M) P. Jones 6-11-0 ... W. Mason 71
2 (2) 1-9 PERIETA 18 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-11-0 ... W. Mason 70
3 (3) 1-10 FOUNTAINS 9 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-11-0 ... W. Mason 69
4 (4) 1-11 MIDWINTER 14 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-11-0 ... W. Mason 68
5 (5) 1-12 GALE DE BARRA 19 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-11-0 ... W. Mason 67

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M. P. Jones 30 wins from 341 starts, 28.2% win rate, 15.5% place rate. W. Mason 20 wins from 20 starts, 20% win rate, 10% place rate.

WINDSOR

THUNDERER 6.35 Mystic Ridge, 7.05 Dutch Lad, 7.35 Chesetown Flyer, 8.05 Amazing Dream, 8.35 Daynabee, 9.05 Shimar.

6.35 CADOGAN ESTATES HANDICAP (€3,063, 1m 2f) (7) (17) (12)

- 1 (1) 0106 ZODIAC UP 30 (M) H. Jones 6-8-0 ... A. Clark 12
2 (2) 0107 TULLY TIT (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
3 (3) 0113 KINGSTON 19 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
4 (4) 0108 DUELIST 21 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 11
5 (5) 0109 WATERFORD 25 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 11

7.05 CORAL CLASSIFIED STAKES (€3,474, 1m 31f) (7)

- 1 (1) 0100 JAWHAR (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... R. Clutton 1
2 (2) 0112 SPRING RIDGE 17 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... R. Clutton 1
3 (3) 0103 KINGSTON 19 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-8-0 ... R. Clutton 1
4 (4) 0104 LADY RACHEL 21 (M) J. Clifton 6-8-0 ... R. Clutton 1
5 (5) 0105 HILL FARMER 19 (M) J. Clifton 6-8-0 ... R. Clutton 1

7.35 WOODSDOWN HANDICAP (€3,193, 1m 6f) (18)

- 1 (1) 0100 ARTFUL DAME 30 (M) H. Jones 6-9-11 ... R. Clutton 1
2 (2) 0101 TRIN CHENS 12 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-9-11 ... R. Clutton 1
3 (3) 0102 KINGSTON 19 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-9-11 ... R. Clutton 1
4 (4) 0103 LADY RACHEL 21 (M) J. Clifton 6-9-11 ... R. Clutton 1
5 (5) 0104 MISS RICHIE 19 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-9-11 ... R. Clutton 1

8.05 IDEAL HARDWARE MAIDEN STAKES (€3,474, 1m 31f) (7) (12)

- 1 (1) 0100 BALTIC LOWLAND 14 (M) P. Jones 6-9-0 ... D. Clifton 4
2 (2) 0101 CALOUTTA KING R Simpson 9-0 ... M. Clifton 4
3 (3) 0102 LADY RACHEL 21 (M) J. Clifton 6-9-0 ... D. Clifton 4
4 (4) 0103 MISS RICHIE 19 (M) B. J. Hayes 6-9-0 ... D. Clifton 4
5 (5) 0104 WATERLOO 28 (M) P. Jones 6-9-0 ... D. Clifton 4

8.35 STOWELL PARK HANDICAP (€3,070, 2m) (8) (17)

- 1 (1) 1620 VISTA ALLEGRE 40 (M) P. Jones 9-7 ... D. Clifton 14
2 (2) 1621 STAFFORD PRINCESS 50 (M) P. Jones 9-7 ... D. Clifton 14
3 (3) 1622 EMPEROR 16 (M) B. J. Hayes 9-7 ... D. Clifton 14
4 (4) 1623 COCKSHIRE 19 (M) B. J. Hayes 9-7 ... D. Clifton 14
5 (5) 1624 ZEPHYR 13 (M) B. J. Hayes 9-7 ... D. Clifton 14

9.05 CADOGAN ESTATES MAIDEN FLIES STAKES (€3,474, 1m 31f) (7) (12)

- 1 (1) 1-8 COME UP SMILING 14 (M) P. Jones 9-11 ... J. Clifton 7
2 (2) 1-9 BARRAGE 14 (M) B. J. Hayes 9-11 ... J. Clifton 7
3 (3) 1-10 GREY BOUTIONS 9 (M) B. J. Hayes 9-11 ... J. Clifton 7
4 (4) 1-11 HENOVERY 27 (M) B. J. Hayes 9-11 ... J. Clifton 7
5 (5) 1-12 LADY RACHEL 21 (M) J. Clifton 9-11 ... J. Clifton 7

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S. J. Suroor, 4 winners from 5 runners, 80% win rate, 10% place rate. J. Clifton 3 winners from 3 runs, 100% win rate, 10% place rate.

RIPON

THUNDERER 7.00 Gynrak Premiera, 7.25 Torpedo Ray, 7.55 Semi Circle, 8.25 Anstad, 8.55 Master Caster, 9.25 Splendour Isolation.

7.00 FISHERGATE SELLING STAKES (€2,295, 1m 2f) (13) (10)

- 1 (1) 2101 GYNRAK PREMIERA 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
2 (2) 7-006 RE VALUANT 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
3 (3) 7-005 TORPEDO RAY 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
4 (4) 7-004 SEMI CIRCLE 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
5 (5) 7-003 ANSTAD 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12

7.55 RIPON LAND ROVER HANDICAP (€3,474, 1m 40f) (10)

- 1 (1) 0-04 ALDWINBYTH 14 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 4
2 (2) 0-03 ANSTAD 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 4
3 (3) 0-02 TORPEDO RAY 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 4
4 (4) 0-01 SEMI CIRCLE 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 4
5 (5) 0-00 GYNRAK PREMIERA 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 4

8.25 TAYLOR WOODROW HANDICAP (€3,474, 1m 40f) (10)

- 1 (1) 0510 ANSTAD 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
2 (2) 0509 TORPEDO RAY 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
3 (3) 0508 SEMI CIRCLE 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
4 (4) 0507 GYNRAK PREMIERA 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
5 (5) 0506 ANSTAD 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12

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- 1 (1) 0382 SHOCKER FROM CLAYTON 16 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... W. Mason 71
2 (2) 0381 BARK ON THE RUN 16 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... W. Mason 70
3 (3) 0380 ANSTAD 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... W. Mason 69
4 (4) 0379 MARETHERY 16 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... W. Mason 68
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COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S. J. Suroor, 4 winners from 5 runners, 80% win rate, 10% place rate. J. Clifton 3 winners from 3 runs, 100% win rate, 10% place rate.

THUNDERER

7.00 Gynrak Premiera, 7.25 Torpedo Ray, 7.55 Semi Circle, 8.25 Anstad, 8.55 Master Caster, 9.25 Splendour Isolation.

7.00 FISHERGATE SELLING STAKES (€2,295, 1m 2f) (13) (10)

- 1 (1) 2101 GYNRAK PREMIERA 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
2 (2) 7-006 RE VALUANT 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
3 (3) 7-005 TORPEDO RAY 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
4 (4) 7-004 SEMI CIRCLE 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
5 (5) 7-003 ANSTAD 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12

7.55 RIPON LAND ROVER HANDICAP (€3,474, 1m 40f) (10)

- 1 (1) 0-04 ALDWINBYTH 14 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 4
2 (2) 0-03 ANSTAD 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 4
3 (3) 0-02 TORPEDO RAY 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 4
4 (4) 0-01 SEMI CIRCLE 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 4
5 (5) 0-00 GYNRAK PREMIERA 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 4

8.25 TAYLOR WOODROW HANDICAP (€3,474, 1m 40f) (10)

- 1 (1) 0510 ANSTAD 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
2 (2) 0509 TORPEDO RAY 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
3 (3) 0508 SEMI CIRCLE 30 (M) P. Jones 6-8-0 ... J. Clifton 12
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BATH THUNDERER

2.00 Make Way, 2.30 Lady Carbon, 3.00 Serendipity, 3.30 Quintus, 4.00 Shama Wa Jaah, 4.30 SHIMAI (map), Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.30 Zalat.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

100 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (M) P. Jones 9-10-0 ... B. Wain 74
Racecard notation: Draw in brackets; Sil-figure form; P - pulled up; U - unseated rider; B - brought down; S - stepped up; released; D - disqualified; Horse's name; Days since last racing; J - jockey; F - fall; G - ground; W - weight; H - horse; Eye - eye; C - colour; W - distance winner; CD - course and distance winner.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 EVERHOLT MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O, £3,420, 5f) (13) (10)

- 1 (1) 3-0482 O LADY M (M) Jackson 9-0-0 ... J. Clifton 72
2 (2) 1-02 (M) 0101 CAROL M (M) Jackson 9-0 ... J. Clifton 71
3 (3) 1-03 (M) 05 FINE DIVIDEND 26 (M) Jackson 9-0 ... J. Clifton 70
4 (4) 1-04 (M) 04 LEE 25 (M) Jackson 9-0 ... J. Clifton 69
5 (5) 05 MAKE WAY (M) Jackson 9-0 ... J. Clifton 68

2.30 KNOCKDOWN SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O, £2,276, 5f) (10) (10)

- 1 (1) 201 (M) 4-0 APOLLINARIS 18 (M) Jackson 6-12 ... J. Clifton

Retro

Mark Sharon has advice for amateurs keen to enter a race over a mountain stage of the Tour de France

Riding in the tracks of the pros

In France cycling surely fulfils the definition of Sport for All. Everyone knows the Tour de France. Even those who think of cycling as a foreigner's sport are drawn to France's national religion holding its annual festival.

If you have ever ridden a bike, you may have wondered idly what it would be like to take part, especially to climb an Alpine road lined with screaming crowds. Not even Wimbledon's Centre Court brings athletes and fans into such proximity.

Actually to do it, though, is a dream that quietly dies on your way to the refrigerator to fetch another glass of chardonnay — it is, after all, thirsty work watching those riders dancing up slopes that would make the average family car wheeze. Fortunately for those like me whose machines know no limit, the dream is now a reality — well, sort of. In 1993 Group Amateurs, which organises the Tour de France, acknowledged the thousands of "dreamers" by launching a special stage of the tour for amateurs.

The result is L'Étape du Tour, hosted by *Vélo* magazine, sister to *L'Équipe*, the daily sports newspaper. *L'Équipe*, ironically known as *L'Auto* at the time, organised the first Tour de France in 1903. To this day the race leader wears a yellow jersey because *L'Auto* was printed on yellow paper at the time.

L'Étape (stage) is a one-day ride just difficult enough to mean that finishing is not guaranteed. What makes it

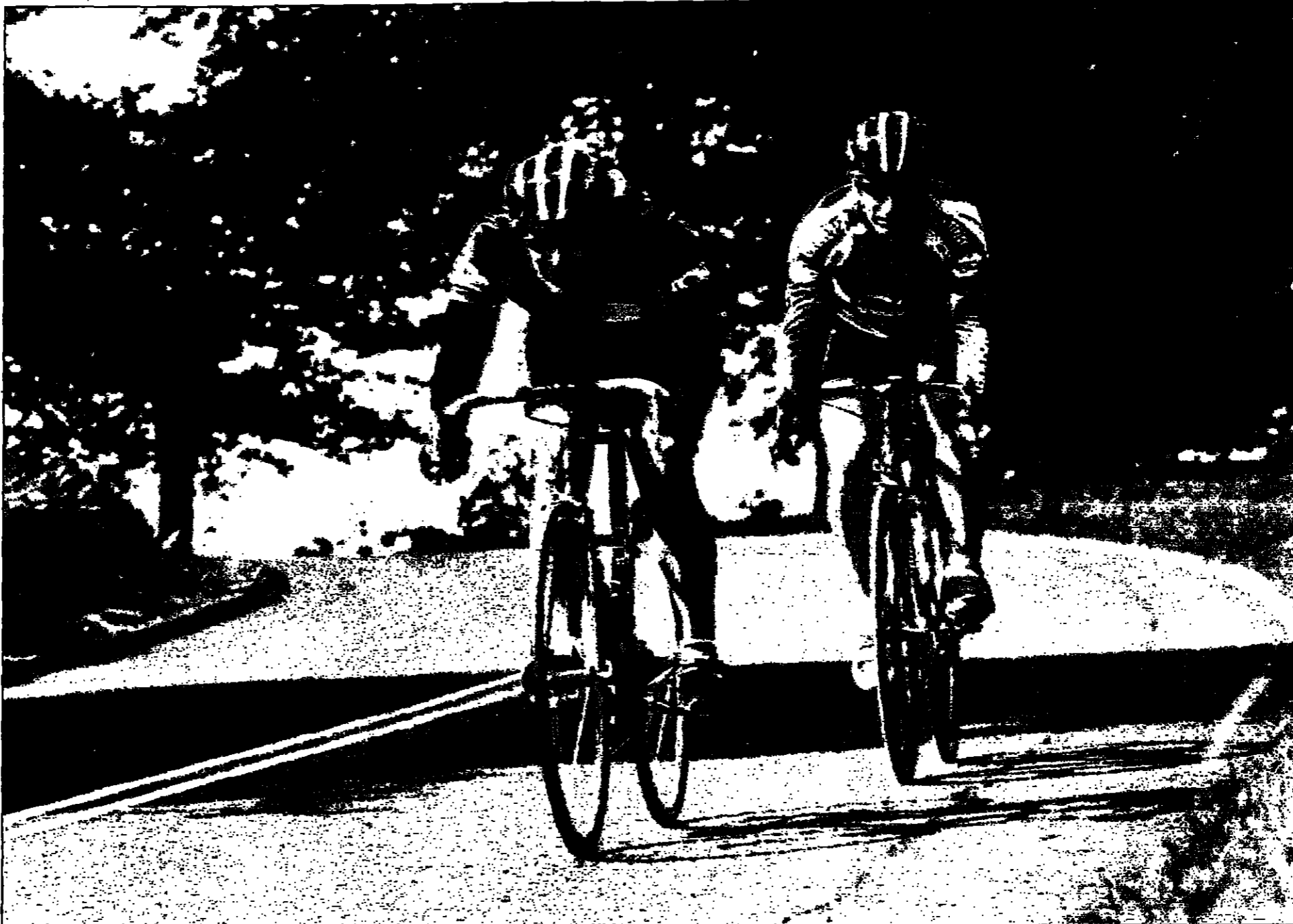
special is the link to the Tour de France. You could bike the same roads as the pros at any time, but that would be like trying to recreate the World Cup final by kicking a football around a park.

The event's air of authenticity comes not just from using the course of one of the Tour's hard mountainous stages, but through its timing — just days before the Tour itself arrives. Add to that all the trappings of a big bike race — including closed roads, service vehicles, even motorcycle cameramen — and the stage is set.

L'Étape is possibly the most difficult annual event open to everyone, with a third of the field often failing to finish. But this has not stopped an ever-growing number of entries. When numbers reached 6,000 last year, the organisers realised they had hit a natural ceiling.

So, this year, for the first time, there are heats. Fortunately for the 200-plus Britons taking part, the French uncharacteristically imposed these only on themselves. According to the event director, Jean-François Alean, the deal is simple: "If you are willing to travel so far, we can hardly make you travel twice."

And travel they do. At the start line a rock musician might find himself discussing the course with the chairman of a Japanese bank, or even with Alain Prost, the former Formula One world champion, who is the event's most famous rider. "I took up cycling to recover from a knee injury," Prost says, "but now I really love it." In his last



Mark Sharon, left, training in Richmond Park, London, with Brian Fleming, a professional rider who gave him invaluable advice about how to tackle mountain riding

Étape. Prost, who trains 10,000km a year, finished 42nd, betraying not just love but meticulous preparation. This year's Étape will be my fourth. I long ago gave up any thought of winning, but I return to make new friends and to be able to ride like the clappers without becoming a trophy on the front of a camper van.

For me the 1997 edition was a quintessential Étape. A 183km (114-mile) rollercoaster from Pau to Loudervielle through the Pyrenees, crossing four passes, including the 6,938ft Col du Tourmalet. The festivities began with a three-day fair in the centre of Pau. The hub of events was the start village, where sponsors had set up stands and pavilions.

SPORT FOR ALL



The climax was a huge party and a fireworks display on the eve of the race.

The 7.30am start felt like a cross between an exam and a blind date. I never know whether I am really prepared, because the mountains are

cycling's equivalent of Texas. Everything is longer, higher and faster than at home. The start was like a grand prix. At the gun, riders surged forward, reaching more than 30mph in an attempt to gain space. Luckily the pace had settled back by the foot of the first climb.

Pace was the watchword all day, especially when climbing the Tourmalet, which was almost 30km long and took me two hours. Brian Fleming, a London-based professional, gave me a few tips. "It can take several minutes to get into climbing mode, but you must settle into your own rhythm. Go too fast and you may get yourself into oxygen debt. The worst thing you can do is to chase the faster riders — for all

you know, they may live in the mountains."

Reaching each summit is a triumph in itself, and the reward is the descent. "Good descending is a marriage of technical ability and confidence," Fleming said. It is a combination hard to come by living in Britain. A good descender is like a good skier — able to let himself go.

A long descent is exhilarating, like a continuous fairground ride. The closed roads mean you can use the whole road to corner. It is not entirely carefree, though, since hammering down frost-cracked roads means that even your eyeballs eventually feel jolted loose. (Television com-

mentators often mention professionals descending at 60mph. It's a myth: later, in the Tour, I watched Jan Ullrich, the eventual winner, descend like a brick on wheels.)

Greeting us at the foot of each descent was a feeding station. For ten minutes, road etiquette gives way to riders behaving like starving animals.

For gearing, this year I will be using Campagnolo Chorus 9-speed twinned with a S3/39 front chain-set to give 18 gears. The integrated brake and gear levers make gear-changing easy. Equipped with ultralight Mavic Helium wheels, my bike weighs 20lb.

The route of the Étape varies from year to year, but you are

guaranteed a tough mountain stage. The altitude and length of the climbs seemingly defy any training regime you might set yourself back in Britain, but that doesn't stop some of the Brits finishing near the front. A heart-rate monitor is essential if you are going to maximise training sessions. I used Polar's XtrainerPlus, which is downloadable to a laptop for analysis.

Once you have started the race, it is essential to eat and drink properly. I estimate that I drank something like 25 pints of fluid during the day.

How to do the Étape: This year's race takes place on July 23. Contact the organisers at Vêlo, 4 Rue Rouget-de-Lisle, 92793 Issy-les-Moulineaux, France. Tel: 00 33 1 40 93 2500

Taking the hard road for the ride of my life

The guy in front is braking. I know because there is an almighty screeching noise as rubber meets hot rim. It's obvious he is panicking as he takes the corner wide and drifts towards the crash barrier. It is my chance to pass and I do. Another hairpin looms. I cut wide, whip the bike around the bend and stamp on the pedals to regain the lost speed.

Descending a mountain on two wheels inspires a combination of fear and total exhilaration. The valley floor, 5,000 feet below, looks like Toytown. You feel that you can fly there. Bad idea, but what if I fall? Pray. Nothing I am wearing will do much good. As I skid along the tarmac at 50mph, both Lycra and several layers of skin will be sliced off. There might be time to think of the outcome — slamming into the rock face or testing the curves of the crash barrier.

Stay upright and you're in for the ride of your life. I was managing that, pushing the limits and listening to the hiss of tyres on the road. The first-shattered road has been patched over and over again. No springs means that every jolt is transmitted through the bike into my aching body.

I'm not complaining. It's the reason I have travelled to the Pyrenees to ride the Étape du Tour. The Étape is a stage of the Tour de France for amateurs, one of the hardest events on earth. This year it was the Pau-Loudervielle stage and took place on July 12, two days before the pros arrived — 183 kilometres across four mountain passes.

If you want to distil the whole image of the Tour into a single day, this is it. The roads are closed, there are feeding zones, mechanics on motor cycles and hundreds of gear-darmanes. I know there will be thousands of spectators lining the roads and the mountain tops will be crowded with camper vans in place for the Tour itself. But you have to get up there first. It helps to be barny to do the Étape, but



Tour de force: Mark Sharon, right, and Brian Fleming

lining up for the 7.30am start I am in good company. Most of the 6,000 entrants are French but almost every nationality is represented: including dozens of Brits. We've got all sorts, from pro Rob Hayles to gynaecologist Chris. We all have severe nerves.

At the start, I realise from the beeping of my heart-rate monitor that my pulse is going ballistic. It's too much too soon, so I ease up and let what seems like the whole field zip by. At 36km is the first of the day's tests, the Col du Soulor. At 1,474 metres high it is a fitting hors d'oeuvre for the masochistic feast to come. I

realise that I have not done enough training. I make it to the top but I am suffering.

The descent wipes the bad memory of the climb, until the nightmare of climbing the Col du Tourmalet begins. The brute is 2,114 metres high and the climb goes on for 30km. All around is some of Europe's most spectacular scenery. It is lost on me. I am not the only one in hell. I've been following a chap called Gilles for several miles. It's a mutual decision to stop for a break, my first since leaving Pau. I consider the unthinkable — abandoning. But it will mean waiting five hours for the broom-wagon,

the bus which follows the race, sweeping up the stragglers. Suddenly a girl in a bikini, sitting on a balcony, offers us a drink, and a spike appears on my heart-rate chart!

An hour later I haul my body over the summit of the Tourmalet. My reward is — nothing. The feeding station has run out of water! The next feed-stop is in the valley and it takes 30 minutes to get there.

On the way down we pass Red Cross ambulances cruising for victims of crashes. They are not short of customers. I pass one guy lying under a silver blanket. He is alive but his bike is in bits. A few miles down, someone has hit a car. The descents are technical enough when you're fresh but lethal after fatigue has dulled the reactions.

By the time I reach the bottom, I am almost looking forward to the next climb. I have covered two thirds of the distance, but squeezed into the last 50km are two more mountains. The Col d'Aspin is first and proves relatively easy. I pay the price on the last ascent — the 1,580 metre Col de Val Louron-Azet. After ten hours in the saddle, it feels like a wall. Finally I am over the top and it's 11km downhill to the finish.

By the time I cross the line I am shattered, physically and emotionally. I have never been so exhausted. At least I crossed the line. Some of my companions are among the 1,300 who never made it. I'll be back next year but I'll be better trained — or I'll take up the joking suggestion made by the GP wife of another rider: "Take a three-day course of steroids, then an Ecstasy tablet at halfway. You won't even notice the rest."

For the record, the winner, Patrick Bruel, finished in 6hr 11min 10sec. The first woman, Laure Russias, arrived 1hr 30min later. Two days later Laurent Brochard, of Festina, won the stage for the pros in 5hr 24min 57sec.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Santanu Ghose, a member of the India team, gives this good defensive problem in the June edition of *Bridge Magazine*. You are East. Try not to look at the South and West hands before deciding what to play at trick one. When declarer wins the queen of clubs lead with dummy's ace.

Dealer South	Game all	Rubber bridge
♠A4	♠KQJ10	♠KQJ10973
♥K95	♥A1095	♥A5
♦K93	♦A9	♦K2
♣QJ754	♣K	♣K106

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: queen of clubs

It is easy to play the two of clubs without thinking. But where are the defence's tricks coming from? Much the most likely source of four tricks is for West to have a trump trick, and the declarer K x of spades. But if you play a low club at trick one, when declarer runs the queen of hearts to your partner's king he is likely to lash out with the ace of spades, hoping to find you with the king and declarer with three of the suit.

As you can see you will be getting in with the king of diamonds, you should dissuade him from switching to a spade. The only way you can do that is by encouraging a club continuation — play the eight of clubs at trick one. Then West will continue clubs

when he takes the king of hearts, and the defence will later take two spade tricks.

By the way, what do you think of South's Two Heart rebid over Two Diamonds? I think it is wrong — it misdescribes his hand type. South has a balanced hand and he should show it by opening One No-Trump if playing 12-14, or by rebidding Two No-Trumps over Two Diamonds. In traditional Acol the rebid of Two No-Trumps is played as showing 15 to 16 points, but the modern style is to play it as weak if an opening of One No-Trump would be strong.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

PEAKTEN
a. An apple
b. A woman's scarf
c. To cheer up

RIGA
a. A robe
b. The Angel of Death
c. An ice field

ORCA
a. A forest nymph
b. A spotty fox
c. A whale

PORTAL
a. A port glass
b. A veranda
c. A bicycle basket

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams wins

Michael Adams, Great Britain's top player, was the joint winner of the elite tournament at Dortmund yesterday, with Vladimir Kramnik, after a draw in his final match. Adams shared the lead with Kramnik, the Russian grandmaster, going into the final round. A particular triumph for Adams was his win in the following game against Viswanathan Anand, the Indian grandmaster.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Viswanathan Anand
Dortmund 1998

Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nc3	Nc6
3 g3	g6
4 Bg2	Bg7
5 O-O	O-O
6 Be3	Fb8
7 Qe2	tc3
8 Ng2	Nb4
9 Q-O	b4
10 Nc1	Nc2+
11 Qe2	N6
12 a5	a6
13 g4	cb4
14 Bc2	Nc7
15 Ra2	O-O
16 Ne3	Nc5
17 b3	Ba6
18 Nc4	b3
19 f4	b4
20 Ra3	Bb4
21 Qc4	Bb2
22 Bb3	Nb3
23 cxb3	Rc3
24 Bb1	Qc7
25 Bc1	Bc1
26 Rb3	Fb8
27 Rxb3+	Oc8
28 g5	Oc5
29 a6	Bd4
30 e5	O4
31 Bf1	O4
32 Qe4	O4
33 Qc2	Oc3
34 Kf2	Bb6
35 Qa2	Od4

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Piket — Douven, Holland, 1988.

Black has a strong kingside attack, but White is hoping that the blocked nature of the position will keep his forces at bay. How did Black unblock the position?

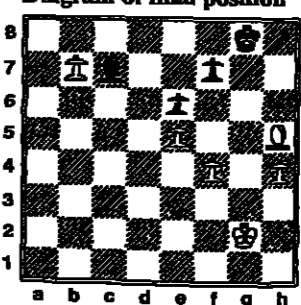
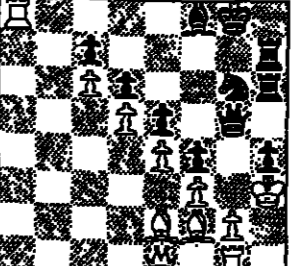


Diagram of final position

The British Schools Chess Championship, sponsored by *The Times*, has been won by Manchester Grammar. Today I give the full results of the final match and, in subsequent articles, I will publish the best game.

TIMES SCHOOLS FINAL, Manchester Grammar v Torquay Boys Grammar. Matchscore names first: David Tompsett drew with David Hedge; Jon O'Connor drew with Richard Muir; Andrew Lewis lost to John Tompsett; Nick O'Neil; Chris Izard drew with Sean Ariss. Final result: Manchester 4½ Torquay 1½.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



Solution on page 46

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDICALS (5 to 15 years), MEDICALS (over 15 years), MEDICALS (under 5 years), MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDICALS (5 to 15 years), MEDICALS (over 15 years), MEDICALS (under 5 years), MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

Advertisement for BT Share Price with the headline 'Would you like to grow a little faster?' and a graphic of a bird flying over a globe.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDICALS (5 to 15 years), MEDICALS (over 15 years), MEDICALS (under 5 years), MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: None scheduled. Finals: Matthew Clark, Farepak, Norbain, Samuel Heath & Sons, Tomkins, Whitacres. Economics: UK May industrial and manufacturing output; UK Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders June new car registrations; UK Confederation of British Industry second-quarter financial services survey; European Union finance ministers meeting, Brussels.

TOMORROW

Interims: Greenwich Resources, Low & Bonar. Finals: Berkeley Group, Bespak, Birkby, Budgets, Harveys Furnishings, Kalamazoo Computer Group, Mentmore Abbey, John Menzies, Oriental Restaurant Group, Precat International, RFC Group, Saville, JWE Telecom. Economics: No United Kingdom data scheduled.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: BWD Securities. Finals: Dixons Group, FI Group, Scottish & Newcastle. Economics: Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee two-day meeting begins; US Cabinet meets to approve 1999 federal budget.

THURSDAY

Interims: Banskons Crisps. Finals: Aberforth Split, Level Trust, Harveys Furnishings, William Ransome, Somerfield. Economics: Bank of England announces interest rate decision.

FRIDAY

Interims: Gartmore British Income, Inn Business Group. Finals: British Bloodstock Agency, Shield Diagnostics Group. Economics: No United Kingdom data scheduled.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Racal, British Vita, Regalian, Sell Yorkshire Water, MFI. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Scottish Power, JWE, Sell Scapa, Matthew Clark. The Observer: Buy Era, Sell Yorkshire Water, Independent on Sunday, Buy Warner Howard, Hold British Energy.

COMPANIES



MICHAEL CLARK

Brewer boosted by its Courage

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE: The acquisition of Courage has made the group Britain's biggest brewer and the benefits of the deal should be in evidence when full-year results are announced on Wednesday.

Profit forecasts range from £425 million to £435 million, compared with £372 million last time. Graeme Eadie at BT Alex Brown, the broker, is forecasting £426 million but believes these results are likely to mark the end of a strong period of growth for the company. The benefits of the cost savings from Courage will soon begin to dwindle. Mr Eadie forecasts a rise in earnings to 52.1p a share from 45.8p.

Analysts expect a rise in the total dividend to about 23.5p a share from 21.3p. The beer division will benefit from cost savings at Courage, while the group's strong portfolio of brands should ensure growth in earnings and market share. The only dark spot as far as Brian Stewart, chief executive, is concerned is likely to be the continued poor performance of the leisure division, particularly Center Parcs and Pontins. At the interim stage, profits at Center Parcs fell by 6 per cent to £32.1 million after poor European trading and the strength of sterling hit profitability. S&N has denied suggestions that it intends to dispose of the business.

DIXONS GROUP: January's profits warning has given the market an indication of what might be in store from the electrical retailer when final results are published on Wednesday.

The last published results clearly benefited from the building society windfalls but that will not be the case this time round with trading conditions proving far more difficult despite the benefit of a strong pound on imported goods.

Brokers forecast pre-tax profits of between £210 million and £220 million. That compares with £194.9 million last time. Earnings should rise to 33p a share from 29.6p. Even so, shareholders should be rewarded with an increase in



Cheers: Brian Stewart should report improved performance at Scottish & Newcastle

the payout from 10.5p a share to 12.4p, a rise of 18 per cent.

SOMERFIELD: On Thursday brokers will be anxious to see what benefits have accrued from the acquisition of Kwik Save earlier this year.

Market estimates of pre-tax profits range from £165 million to £175 million. That compares with £105.4 million last time. Clive Black at Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, forecasts pre-tax profits of £174 million. Bill Myers at Williams de Broe expects a pre-tax profit of £107

million for the Somerfield conglomerate unveils final results later today. Brokers expect pre-tax profits to fall within a band of £495 million to £501 million, up from £433.7 million last time. The dividend is also expected to grow from 11.5p to 13p.

The improvement will be fuelled by a welter of acquisitions and disposals. Hopes are high that the figures will be accompanied by news that the group has decided to accelerate its £100 million share buyback programme.

SG Securities upgraded the stock to a "buy" from a "hold" in

cards when the industrial conglomerate unveils final results later today. Brokers expect pre-tax profits to fall within a band of £495 million to £501 million, up from £433.7 million last time. The dividend is also expected to grow from 11.5p to 13p.

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April. It predicts a pre-tax profit of £495 million and earnings of 23.8p per share, up from 21p. The group's Gates subsidiary, which makes power transmission belts for the automotive industry, has been enjoying strong growth with only limited exposure to Asia. The UK export businesses have suffered because of sterling's strength, while food products, accounting for about 25 per cent of operating profits, have enjoyed a strong performance.

BERKELEY GROUP: The housing market may have been knocked sideways by higher interest rates but there are few signs of it affecting this up-market housebuilder. Brokers expect profits to exceed £100 million for the first time when final results are announced tomorrow. Estimates at the pre-tax level range from £95 million to £110 million. That compares with £75.1 million last time. On that basis earnings will rise about 20 per cent to 61p a share. The payout is set to grow to 10.5p.

Brokers will be anxious to establish if the London market is showing signs of slowing and if the slump in the Far East has deterred buyers. Close attention will also be paid to the land bank to see how prices have appreciated and what can be done to protect margins.

HARVEYS FURNISHING: A near doubling of annual pre-tax profits is expected on Thursday. Brokers forecast pre-tax profits of between £15 million and £17 million compared with £8.2 million last time. Earnings should rise from 12.6p a share to 17p.

These will be the first full results from the enlarged group after the merger of Harveys and Kingsbury. Trading conditions appear to be getting tougher with higher interest rates depressing the housing market and the absence of building society windfalls taking the edge off sales generally.

Operating margins will show some improvement helped by strong sales at Easter. The rebranding of the Kingsbury stores continues apace. The dividend is set to grow 3p to 9p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

City divided on prospects for another rate increase

The centrepiece of the British economic week will be the two-day meeting of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee on Wednesday and Thursday. Opinion in the City is deeply divided on whether the committee will raise base rates for the second month running to combat perceived upward pressure on earnings despite other evidence that the economy is slowing down, even on the high street. Any announcement will come at the end of the meeting on Thursday.

A Reuter poll on Thursday showed that most economists expect rates to rise again by the autumn, the only bone of contention being the timing. The poll of 25 economists found a 43 per cent likelihood that rates will rise this week.

There is only one big British statistic in the run-up to the MPC meeting, published today. Both industrial production and manufacturing output are predicted to have contracted by 0.2 per cent in May, according to a consensus of market forecasts tracked by Standard & Poor's MMS. Apart from this, the only economic indicator for the UK this week is May construction orders due to be published on Thursday.

Another focus of financial market interest this week is the meeting tomorrow of the European Central Bank which comes on the day after a Euro-11 council meeting and a press conference on Wednesday by the ECB governing council. The markets are looking out for any hint from the ECB on where interest rates will converge for the start of monetary union. Also of interest will be Sunday's election to the upper house of the Japanese Parliament, given the intense international political pressure on the Japanese political system to deliver far-reaching structural and economic reforms.

JANET BUSH

European satellite operator in \$6bn placing

SES, the European broadcast satellite operator, has been valued at \$6 billion (£3.6 billion). Shares in the company, operator of the Astra satellite system, begin trading in London and Luxembourg today (Martin Barrow writes).

SES, whose full name is Societe Europeenne des Satellites, announced yesterday that shares were priced at 6,000 Luxembourg francs. Trading will take place on Luxembourg Stock Exchange and through Seaq International in London.

The offering was more than six times oversubscribed. The price was towards the top end of a previously indicated range of LFr5,200 to LFr6,200. Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Morgan Stanley Dean Winer were the joint global co-ordinators and joint lead managers of the international offering. The issue raises \$1 billion but will not provide additional funds.

Up to 93 per cent of European households that receive television by satellite or cable use the Astra system. Its customers include BSkyB, Germany's Kirch Gruppe and Turner Broadcasting. SES has four satellites under construction, due to be launched between now and 2000.

Railtrack to seek further revenue-share investments

RAILTRACK is actively looking at half a dozen investments that would see the track operator paying for new railway lines around the country in return for a share of the revenues from the trains that will run on them.

The company has been encouraged by the success of the £2.1 billion deal to upgrade and rebuild the West Coast Mainline operated by Richard Branson's Virgin Rail. The deal was cleared by the twin rail regulators last month, and John O'Brien, in charge of franchising across the old British Rail network, has indicated privately that he would look favourably on any subsequent deals.

In addition Railtrack has agreed to spare the Government further political embarrassment by building the first phase of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and eventually buying it, a move which City analysts believe should further cement relations between the company and its regulators.

This has sparked buying of Railtrack shares and reinforced their extraordinary performance since the company was privatised in May 1996 at 380p. The City saw a rash of profits upgrades by brokers last week and many



Gerald Corbett, chief executive, has brought policy changes

analysts are forecasting further advances in the price. Railtrack shares rose by 12p last week to close at £14.65, but Richard Hannah, transport analyst at BT Alex Brown, has set a target of £16.50 and other brokers are equally bullish. A spokesman for Railtrack said: "Because we're spending

more than we were initially committed to do, the City is seeing us as a growth stock rather than a utility grinding away at efficiencies." Much of the change of policy at Railtrack is attributed to Gerald Corbett, the chief executive, who arrived in October from Grand Metro-

politan. "We're open to any discussions with any of our customers because we think it's the way for the railway to go, more shared risk but more shared reward," the spokesman said.

Once the West Coast line is upgraded, it will take 150 mile-per-hour tilting trains that will allow Virgin to compete with British Airways' domestic shuttles connecting London to Manchester and Glasgow. Railtrack will take both the usual access charges for allowing Virgin to operate the trains and a share of the revenue they generate.

The basis of the Channel Tunnel rail link is exactly the same. When the railway is built we acquire it. Then we enter into a revenue-sharing deal with Government on Eurostar," said the Railtrack spokesman.

The projects the company is looking at are far smaller than the Channel Tunnel or West Coast deals, the biggest investments in rail infrastructure in decades, and are mainly local in nature.

Railtrack has already carried out several such, for example reopening a stretch of track near Bicester, Oxfordshire, that was originally closed in the 1960s by the Beeching Report.

CWC takes 50% stake in interactive TV group

CABLE & Wireless Communications, the telecoms and cable group, will today pay £13 million for a 50 per cent stake in Two Way TV, the interactive television company that lets viewers take part in game-shows (Chris Ayres writes).

Two Way TV's software will be loaded into the set-top boxes used to receive digital television. CWC has agreed to supply Two Way TV's services to its own customers and will help to market them to other UK operators.

Graham Wallace, chief executive of CWC, said: "Interactive services will form a key part of CWC's digital services and will add a unique brand of interactive entertainment to our offer."

Two Way TV was founded by Bill Andrews, 60, a former executive at Granada and Simon Cornwell, 40, a former relief worker who spent six years repatriating orphans in Cambodia in the 1970s. The group's biggest shareholders are Ladbroke Group and Vencom of the US.

Mr Andrews said the company's software allows viewers to place bets and access information. It also allows viewers to play interactive games which are not linked with real-time programming.

United look to score with branded account

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

YOU have bought the replica kits, now you can open the account. Manchester United supporters are to have their very own savings scheme.

At up to 0.25 per cent, the rate of interest on Britannia Building Society's United account will probably fail to attract David Beckham or Posh Spice Victoria Adams, his fiancée. Both Tesco and Safeway offer a

more interesting 6.75 per cent on balances of £1. However, the United account is a better buy than some football accounts that pay rates below 3 per cent.

The club, which has mailed its 150,000 registered fans with details of the scheme, will gain from the link, by collecting 1 per cent a year of balances in the account.

Prudential Standard Variable Rate Change. Prudential Banking plc has increased its Standard Variable Mortgage Rate by 0.25% to 8.95% with effect from Monday 6th July 1998 for both new and existing customers. For further information phone 0800 000 222 or contact your Prudential representative.

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Birch set for market return

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

PHILIP BIRCH, the entrepreneur who made his name in the 1980s retail boom, is to make his stock market comeback with the AIM launch of his family business on Wednesday.

Touchstone Group, an accountancy software company run by Mr Birch and his two sons, Keith and David, since 1990, was set up in 1982.

Mr Birch made his name a decade ago with the Ward White retailing empire, which was acquired by Boots for £900 million in a hostile bid. Touchstone's placing is expected to raise about £3 million and values the company at about £12 million. Mr Birch said: "We're launching in a very important growth area... we're sure to cause a few waves."

CHANGE ON WEEK

Table with columns for currency and exchange rate. Includes US dollar (1.6474), German mark (2.9958), Exchange index (106.4), Bank of England official close (4pm).

STOCK MARKET

Table with columns for stock index and value. Includes FT 30 share (3896.9), FTSE 100 (5988.4), New York Dow Jones (Closed), Tokyo Nikkei Avge (16511.24).

TOURIST RATES

Table with columns for country, bank, and rate. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA.

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CORPORATE PROFILE: PowerGen

THE FACTS

Turnover: £2.9 billion.
Pre-tax profit: £290 million.
Market cap: £5.4 billion.
Employees: 3,453, with 2,823 in the UK and 630 overseas.
Overview: Britain's second-largest generator after National Power, providing electricity generation in the UK and overseas. Soon to own East Midlands Electricity, which serves two million homes in and around Coventry, Warwickshire and Staffordshire.
Brands: PowerGen, which has become a household name through sponsorship of the weather on ITV.

THE BOARD

Unfashionably combining the role of chairman and chief executive at PowerGen is Ed Wallis, who became chief executive on the company's privatisation eight years ago. He added the job of executive chairman two years ago. Wallis is non-executive chairman of LucasVarity and a non-executive director of Mercury European Privatisation Trust.

Something of a boardroom vacuum has been created with the resignation, last week, of Deryk King, PowerGen's managing director, who is now on gardening leave ahead of his formal departure. He quit because no job would be found for him in an envisaged PowerGen merger with Houston Industries of America. King joined PowerGen two years ago from ICI, where he held various positions over 22 years, but grew frustrated with Wallis's hands-on style of leadership. He is a non-executive director of Kvaerner.

PowerGen's finance director, Peter Hickson, joined two years ago from IMA, the financial services and media group, where he held the same role. He is a non-executive director of Lex Services. Nick Baldwin, managing director (UK electricity), came up through the ranks of the pre-privatisation Central Electricity Generating Board.

PowerGen's non-executive directors include Sir Frederick Crawford, chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Commission. He is a member of the Royal Academy of Engineering and former vice-chancellor of Aston University. Anthony Holwood is chairman of Burns and a non-executive director of Schroder Ventures International Investment Trust and NatWest Bank. He joined the board in November 1993. David K-P Li is chairman and chief executive of the Bank of East Asia. He is deputy chairman of Hongkong Telephone and a director of several companies in the Far East. Roberto Quarta, chief executive of BBA Group, joined the board in July 1995, and is a past director of BTPL. Sir Alan Thomas is chairman of Microcap Growth Investment Trust, and past head of the Defence Export Services Organisation at the Ministry of Defence. Michael Hoffman, another non-executive director, died in April.

POWERGEN is on the verge of being reborn. Over the next few months, it will jump from being a generator with little to look forward to except a diminishing home market to an international force with a strong UK supply business.

The country's second-biggest coal-burning generator last week moved towards a long-held ambition of buying a regional electricity company. Soon it is expected to follow the £1.9 billion purchase of East Midlands by sealing a gigantic transatlantic merger with Houston Industries, the US power group.

For Ed Wallis, chairman and chief executive, the metamorphosis will mark the completion of a strategy that he has stuck to doggedly over the past few years. For the electricity industry, the change to PowerGen will mark part of a much larger shake-up of the market.

Created out of the privatisation of the electricity industry, the generators have been the ugly sisters of the power game — berated by all around for their bossy, domineering ways.

PowerGen and its larger counterpart, National Power, have been the companies that everyone loves to hate. They have been too big, too keen to keep electricity prices high and too much of a law unto themselves.

But times are changing. Moves by the industry regulator and the Government to reduce the size of the two biggest coal-burning generators by forcing them to sell power stations are poised to push the industry into a shape that many experts said it should have had at the outset — one that is designed to deliver more competition.

PowerGen has embraced the idea of power station disposals as a means of winning government favour for its wish to become a vertically integrated company — producing electricity right from the generator turbine to the household socket. Although the generator has agreed the purchase of East Midlands from Dominion Resources, it could still face a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if there are doubts over the size and market power of PowerGen.

Integration has been at the heart of Wallis's vision. He has constantly banged the drum that competition in the power industry should be provided by a small number of



Corporate powerhouse: PowerGen is moving from electricity generation, left, to vertical integration under its familiar brand image, bottom right, which is the dream of Ed Wallis, above right, who is flanked by Nick Baldwin, managing director (UK electricity), and Peter Hickson, group finance director



companies with their hands on all stages of power production.

He has persevered despite having aspirations blocked by the Government and suffering the frustration of watching other companies execute the same approach. In 1995 PowerGen launched a bid for Midlands Electricity after talks broke down with East Midlands. The bid, which was followed by one from National Power for Southern Electric, cleared the hurdle of an MMC inquiry only to fall when the Government blocked both bids from the generators. Ian Lang, then President of the Board of Trade, said there was not enough competition in generation to allow the influence of PowerGen and National Power to spread.

Clearly furious, PowerGen threatened a judicial review. There then followed a heated spat between PowerGen and

Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, with the generator threatening not to sell some power stations if it had already agreed to dispose of unless it got guarantees on how the electricity industry would develop. PowerGen was aggrieved at not getting a

chance to buy its regional company while being forced to sell power stations to stimulate competition in generation. It was also aggrieved at watching Eastern Electricity buy its power stations, along with some from National Power, and achieve the vertical inte-

gration it had coveted. ScottishPower scored a similar goal by buying the regional company Manweb.

Wallis has since got on better with the Labour Government although he has played a canny game of attempting to get what he wants through a combination of charm and implicit threat. In the power market the Government is very much in hock to the unregulated generators. The Government has tried to force a market for the UK deep-mined coal industry but now must remain hopeful that the generators will buy their fuel from RJB Mining. PowerGen has still to sign up to a substantial amount of coal over the next few years.

Wallis last week signalled that no substantial deals would be done until the autumn despite the fact that emergency contracts between RJB and the three coal-burn-

ing generators technically expired last week. By the autumn — no coincidence, surely — Wallis should know whether his bid for East Midlands and the link with an American company face any regulatory problems.

As the son of a Derbyshire miner, the chairman of PowerGen has used the coal ticket strongly to his advantage. The company has both boasted that it does not need to buy RJB's coal and also that it supports efforts to ensure a market for UK deep-mined coal. Staying true to both of these positions enhances its own bargaining power with the Government and RJB.

Because of their genesis, PowerGen and National Power have been subjected to constant comparison in evaluating their performances. But for two businesses in the same area, they are very dissimilar. While National Power has

"PowerGen is close to realising its aims of vertical integration in both the UK and the US with the achievement of this facilitated by co-operation with Other and the Government on plant disposals and coal purchases. A positive by-product of this for shareholders could be the unlocking of value in its balance sheet." *Angelos Anastasiou, Credit Lyonnais Laing*

"PowerGen is very good at operating power stations. The question is how best to exploit this in the world as a whole. The move into distribution with East Midlands is less clear. It is an area in which they have no expertise and the vertical integration argument is unproven." *Simon Taylor, Salomon Smith Barney*

"PowerGen has been well managed in the UK but to date its efforts overseas have been far less productive than those of National Power." *Nigel Hawkins, Williams de Broé*

been the bigger and more stolid of the two ugly sisters. PowerGen has been the feistier and more glamorous one.

PowerGen has been keen to wear more make-up, making sure that presentation is an integral part of its business. Its extravagant sponsorship of the ITV weather forecasts has paid huge dividends for a company about to enter the competitive market in household electricity. PowerGen has the potential to take the domestic market by storm if households shake off apathy to switch suppliers.

It is a big "if", though, and the integration strategy has not convinced all City watchers. Some believe that PowerGen is overpaying for East Midlands particularly as the business faces an imminent distribution price review.

Time will tell whether integration will prove a transforming force in a new-look energy world. Critics say it is also a symbol of Wallis's megalomania and his desire to create a company that is bigger than National Power. Wallis, an engineer by profession, has spent all of his working life in the power industry. He has thrived in a new commercial environment and could now be poised to shape PowerGen into a global force in the power business.

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

WALLIS	
Ethical expression ¹	6/10
Fat-cat quotient ²	4/10
Financial record.....	7/10
Share performance.....	8/10
Attitude to employees.....	8/10
Strength of brand.....	9/10
Innovation.....	9/10
Annual report.....	9/10
City star rating.....	8/10
Future prospects.....	8/10
Total.....	78/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by *Strategy Works*. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by *Crisp Consulting*.

Pension perks criticised

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

COMPULSION in pension schemes is unjustifiable and all tax concessions should be abolished, according to a radical new look at pensions by the right-wing Institute of Economic Affairs.

Michael Littlewood, author of the report, which is published today, argues that there is little evidence to suggest people would stop contributing to their pension if tax perks were withdrawn. At present people enjoy tax relief on their pension contributions at their highest rate of income tax, which makes pension contributions a particularly tax-efficient form of saving for 40 per cent taxpayers.

Mr Littlewood said: "Concessions distort the savings and investment market, lead to increased tax burdens, cost more than they recover and disproportionately benefit the well-off."

White Paper seen as threat to employers

BY CARL MORTISHED

BOSSSES are being warned that contract cleaners and other non-staff maintenance and technical personnel may soon be able to sue for unfair dismissal under a new definition of employee contained in the Government's *Fairness at Work* White Paper.

The White Paper, which puts forward proposals to improve employee working conditions, defines an employee as anyone who works for someone else "regardless of whether or not they are strictly employed under a contract of employment".

The wide definition is welcomed by trade unions which have campaigned against the creation of a growing army of "virtual employees" who staff everything from the canteen to the IT unit but never acquire the status and rights of full-time workers. The trend has accelerated with the fashion among businesses to outsource non-core activities.

Employers are fearful that a future change in the law could expose them to litigation and expensive claims from staff no longer on their payrolls. Osborne Clarke, the firm of solicitors, believes that the proposals could have a devastating effect on businesses.

Nick Moore, a partner, said: "It could radically transform the whole basis of UK employment legislation. Taken to its logical conclusion a contract cleaner who comes into an office every day could sue his place of work, rather than the contractor, for unfair dismissal."

Peter Mitchell, of the TUC's policy unit, said: "We have seen a case where a contract worker in the IT field was under contract with a firm for three to four years, then dismissed. The tribunal ruled that he was not employed by the firm or the agency that sent him. He did not have an employer at all."

Reichmann stages \$350m comeback

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

PAUL REICHMANN, the Canary Wharf property developer, has staged a comeback in the US with the purchase of offices and shopping centres for \$350 million (£215 million).

This is Mr Reichmann's biggest solo deal since the collapse of Olympia & York, his property company, under the weight of Canary Wharf's debts in 1992.

The 24 properties in Kansas, Kentucky and New Hampshire cover 35 million sq ft and were sold by Intel Investment and Management, which will invest the proceeds in a 50-storey Planet Hollywood hotel in New York.

Mr Reichmann has had a tough time regaining his position as head of the world's biggest property company. Olympia & York, a Canadian company, built office buildings in Europe and America, including New York's World Financial Center.

But when Mr Reichmann attempted to replicate the success of the Manhattan skyscraper complex in London's Docklands, he had difficulties finding tenants after spending more than \$2.5 billion. Creditors repossessed the tower.

In 1995, Mr Reichmann led an investor group to buy back the development from his former creditors. Six years after Olympia & York's collapse, Canary Wharf is now almost fully occupied.

THE TIMES

TUESDAY

30p

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CHANGING TIMES

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Economic consequences of the MPC

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs, then you don't really understand what is going on. Or perhaps you should be setting interest rates? This week's meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is going to be a nail-biter. The new monetary policy regime was supposed to induce boredom but in fact it has done exactly the reverse. Last month hardly any economists expected the MPC to raise interest rates. They were wrong (yours truly included). Since then, many economists' forecasts (or are they postcasts?) have become more bullish. The markets are nervous that the MPC is going to raise rates again this Thursday.

After last month's performance, I would forgive you if you concluded that you would do better to consult Mystic Meg, but in my view the MPC should not raise rates and, although this is very far from being the same thing, I also think that they will not.

Why did they raise rates last month? The prime influence was the surge in average earnings, with private sector pay growing by 5.75 per cent and the overall total held back only by continued restraint in the public sector. This was backed up by a sharp fall in the pound.

Since then there has been a further rise in average earnings and the latest inflation figures appeared to be disastrous, with the headline figure hitting 4.2 per cent and the underlying rate, for which the official target is 2.5 per cent, hitting 3.2 per cent. Moreover, the growth of retail sales surged back up to 4.6 per cent, prompting renewed talk of a consumer boom.

These apparent warning signs of emerging inflationary pressure, however, have coincided with a good deal of evidence to the contrary. The pain in manufacturing is intense and, now that the pound has bounced back, this may well prompt a bout of job-shedding. True, much of the service sector looks to be robust, but here, too, cracks are starting to appear.

In particular, if you muttered the words "consumer boom" to the average high street retailer you would get a very run response. Several



retailing companies have issued profit warnings. Consumers remain canny about prices, so that the volume figures do not tell the whole story. Moreover, it seems that June was an absolutely dire month in the high street, despite the booming business in "sou'westers". Meanwhile, the Asian crisis has deepened. It is not difficult to imagine that a sharp slowdown in UK growth is already under way.

Yet what about those average earnings numbers? Several members of the MPC are scarred by the experience of the late 1980s boom and determined that the same mistakes should not be made again. But they would do well to pay heed to the behaviour of average earnings during that episode. They reached their peak growth of 11 per cent in August 1990. At that point, having been slowing for two years, the growth of GDP turned negative.

To put it simply, wages are a lagging indicator of the economy. If interest rate policy is tied to the behaviour of average earnings, then there is a real risk of plunging the economy into recession. Of course, you could argue that even this outcome could be justified because otherwise the inflation target will be grossly overshoot. After all, inflation already stands at 3.2 per cent. But measurement distortions greatly exaggerate the seriousness of Britain's inflation problem. The recent rise in the underlying rate is primarily

because there have been two Budgets in the past year, while about half of last month's surprising high increase was because of a huge rise in potato prices caused by the adverse weather. (Perhaps the Government should target the ex-spuds RPI?).

The still unjustly neglected European harmonised inflation measure (HICP) puts UK inflation at 2 per cent, admittedly somewhat higher than the European average of 1.6 per cent, but hardly grossly so. This gives a much more accurate picture of the rate at which British businesses, on average, can raise their prices.

Of course, this average covers many different situations. Service sector inflation is much higher, but that also looks to have stabilised. Manufacturing businesses, though, are on the brink of deflation. Accordingly, overall inflation on the target measure is going to fall later on this year, whatever happens to average earnings.

And of course, the hawks will argue that the issue is what happens to pay inflation next year and beyond, and there the jury is still out. But with headline inflation set to fall, bonuses unlikely to be as high and a squeeze spreading out from manufacturing into the wider economy, there is a good prospect that average earnings growth will be lower next year.

That's all very well for me, you may say, but why should the MPC, staffed by people who believe that inflation is alive and kicking, hold off from raising interest rates again? Although some key data releases over the past month have been adverse, they can be said to be in accordance with the presumed path of the economy which prompted the rise in interest rates in the first place. Moreover, there are tentative signs that this shock housing market, high street and among employers. It certainly appears to have wrought such a change in the exchange markets. Sterling has risen by 3 per cent since the last rate increase.

If I am wrong, then on forecasting the MPC I may be forced to defer to Mystic Meg. But on the economic consequences I will raise the stakes. The chances of an outright recession would soar.

مكتبة الأهل

An anthem to the beauty of family life

The pre-publicity said it was unsentimental, which wasn't strictly true. It was the moment when Lynn (Amanda Burton) gave her father a bottle of her dead mother's perfume that really got to me — the last twist of the knife.

Other viewers will have been soaking their Kleenex earlier. I am rarely moved by drama and sometimes worry that there's a bit of sentimentality in Lynn's face crumpled realising she would never see her father again, so did mine and the floodgates opened. Every few minutes Gannon gave this emotional mangle another sharp turn. By the end my face was aching.

But it wasn't the disgusting, manipulative sentimentality of *Love Story* or the death of Little Nell, which, as Oscar Wilde said, you would need a heart of stone to

read without laughing. This was an exemplary demonstration of the power of understatement.

The family could not have been more ordinary or their lives more comfortably dull. There was no static, no emotional clutter, just the fact that Lynn, happily married to her telephone engineer, David (Neil Dudgeon) and doing mother of Amy (Zoe Ashmeade) had an inoperable cancer and was going to die. The mundane details of their existence suddenly took on heightened resonance. Superbly acted by Burton and Dudgeon, the play became an anthem to the beauty of family life.

Having seen her own mother die, a cadaverous, smelly semi-vegetable, Lynn decides to spare Amy the same agony. She refuses treatment and plans to take an overdose when the pain becomes intolerable. Her "gift" to Amy is her unclouded happy memories.

Like the orderly housewife she

is, she prepares for her departure, writing letters to her daughter to open at strategic moments in her later life, telling David to remarry after a decent interval, and asking him to look after her father.

Cancer remains the sting in the tail of our affluence and longevity. For the postwar generations, it is the slow bombing raid, picking victims at random, relieving some, killing others. As any parent of growing children who has had the disease will tell you, it is the thought of leaving them which is intolerable.

This is the issue which Gannon, whose own mother died of cancer, tackles head-on and with extraordinary force. She has insisted that this is not pro-euthanasia polemic, but when the GP discreetly suggests that David discontinue the evidence of her suicide, she reminds us that such things happen every day. *The Gift* was the most

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

moving television play I have seen in years. England versus Argentina was agony, but this was something else.

The pain of being taken from your children is perhaps only exceeded by the pain of having your children taken from you. One of the saddest yet most heartening aspects of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry has been the dignity and determination of his parents in

their quest for justice.

The arrival of the men in the black evening suits and red bowties, seizing the opportunity to publicise their cause, however, was a timely reminder that if justice is not done, and seen to be done, there will be unexpected and disturbing results. The intervention of the Nation of Islam came, by coincidence, just before Everyman's documentary on the history of the group in America (BBC1, last night).

It would be very easy to make fun of this sect. America has always grown new religions and new versions of old ones, like strange weeds in a field pond. The invention of prophets, rewriting of histories, sweeping assertions about the nature of God and His intentions, claims of miracles, these usually sound like the banal fantasies of the ignorant and gullible. Anyone could make this stuff up. It has no foundation in

any kind of reality.

When Louis Farrakhan was discussing the movement's belief that white men were created by a gifted black scientist as a 6,000 year experiment to test the black man's goodness against the evil of the whites, you could hear the footsteps of the men in white coats. This was not some "porridge of irrationality," he explained, but rooted in scientific fact. Very well, if you insist.

And then there are the trap-pings: the colourful quasi-military costumes with the followers look like crosses between hotel commissionaires and Foreign Legionnaires, the portentous stiles, and the fracturing into ever smaller splinter groups with ever more elaborate names, lurching between denunciation, revision and rehabilitation. This tendency crosses social and ethnic divides,

of course, and in this at least, the Nation is more an American than a black phenomenon.

Farrakhan is still banned from the United Kingdom and his claim not to be anti-Semitic was somewhat undermined by the archive clip of him being extremely anti-Semitic. The group famously believe that the white man is the devil and when Muhammad Ali made this point to Michael Parkinson on his chat show, Parky looked even more taken aback than he did when Rod Hull attacked his privates while wearing an Emu glove.

But if we put aside the absurdities of the mythology, the Nation has cleaned up some of the worst housing projects in America. It is all too easy to see why its message that defiant self-reliance is the only way forward for black people because whites are simply incapable of giving them a fair deal seems extraordinarily attractive. We have been warned.

BBC

6.00am Business Breakfast (8418815)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (282525)
9.00 All Over the Shop (332954)
9.30am KIROY (T) (2810032)
10.00 Meet the Challenge Home heating tips; sprucing up a coffee table (8317083)
10.25 Good Neighbours Favourite Ramsay Street moments (719235)
10.35 Connoisseurs' Collections (T) (8225780)
10.40 News (T) (8246273)
10.50 International Cricket: Third Test — England v South Africa The morning's action from the final day's play at Old Trafford (16461761)
1.00pm News (T) and weather (22612)
1.30 Regional News (T) (15233877)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (93840631)
2.05 Perry Mason Returns Raymond Burr reprises his role as the wheelchair-bound lawyer-detective (T) (9384438)
3.35 Noddy (7264273) 3.45 Playdays (5726332) 4.05 Popeye (2029148) 4.10 Casper (9536070) 4.35 50/50 (3400051) 5.00 Newsround (T) (3338490) 5.10 Blue Peter (1/2) (T) (8933631)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (138896)
6.00 News (T) and weather (815)
6.30 Regional News (167)
7.00 Telly Addicts Contestants from Buckinghamshire, Surrey, Devon and Oxfordshire compete (T) (6761)
7.30 Here and Now: Private Patients Investigating the standard of care offered in private hospitals. Plus: two Darlington pensioners who've written 48 cowboy novels between them (T) (821)
8.00 EastEnders Phil tells Grant a new home truths; Tiffany leads the hunt for her husband's anger (T) (2709)
8.30 Lakelanders First of an eight-part series following the real-life drama from Lakeland in Essex, Britain's biggest shopping mall, beginning with the January sales as thousands of shoppers return unwanted Christmas gifts (T) (4544)
9.00 News (T) and weather (1438)
9.30 Men Behaving Badly: Home Made Sauma Deborah and Dorothy go away for a sailing weekend (T) (61438)
10.00 Panorama: The Car Cabal Investigating why, in an age of European integration, Continental customers are able to buy their cars for less than the British (T) (233235)
10.40 Crimefile Mike Hammer (Rob Estes) falls for femme fatale Pamela Anderson while searching for her missing father. Directed by Armando Iannucci (T) (8693612)
12.10am International Cricket: Third Test Richie Benaud introduces highlights from the final day's play (9398151)
12.50 Marlowe (1969) with James Garner, Gayle Hunnicutt, Bruce Lee and Rita Moreno. Down-at-heel private eye Philip Marlowe is hired to find a girl's missing father. Directed by Paul Bogart (T) (8797129)
2.20 Weather (9570804)
2.25 BBC News 24

BBC

6.10am Musical Prodigies? (T) (7206490)
6.35 Bridging the Gap (5731693) 7.00 Teletubbies (T) (1152780) 7.25 Good and Beautiful (1171815) 7.50 Get Your Own Back (T) (4082325) 8.15 Why Fug (T) (2780707) 8.30 The Trucks (T) (9532051) 8.45 Harry and the Hendersons (T) (2446438) 9.10 Hawkeye (T) (5056544) 9.35 Cartoon (2862998) 10.00 Teletubbies (82506)

10.30 Who's Minding the Mint? (1986) Comedy with Jim Hutton. A bumbling employee crisis cooks to help him replace a fortune in the US Mint. Directed by Howard Morris (T) (45795761)

12.05pm The Phil Silvers Show (T) (8952032)
12.30 Working Lunch (72544)
1.00 Top Gear Motorsport Highlights of the Scottish Rally, the new Formula Palmer Audi sedans at Silverstone (7582254)
1.35 International Cricket: Third Test — England v South Africa Live coverage of the final day's play from Old Trafford. Includes news, regional news and weather at 3.50 (15804001)
6.00 The Simpsons Homer gets food poisoning and races to set his affairs in order when he learns he has only 24 hours to live (T) (958815)
6.20 Space 1999 (T) (105525)
7.15 Top Gear Take Two In the first of an eight-part series Tiff Needell reviews BMW's six-cylinder Z3 and M-series cars (T) (490761)
7.30 Investing for All with Alvin Hall New four-part financial magazine. The financial guru advises a ladies' investment group (T) (893)
8.00 War Walks Richard Holmes on the 1066 Battle of Hastings (T) (3051)
8.30 The Travel Show Juliet Morris explores classical Crete, while Fi Glover and Simon Calder visit Hong Kong (T) (2186)

9.00 [CHOICE] Reputations: Joachim von Ribbentrop — the Nazi Who Loved England Profile of champagne salesman-turned-Nazi war minister Joachim von Ribbentrop (T) (8099)

10.00 Have I Got News for You Satirical quiz (T) (14032)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (851877)
11.15 Ruby Wax's First guests are Jeanne Tripplehorn, Joanna Lumley and Boy George (T) (345964)
11.55 Weather (955728)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (44620)
12.30am Learning Zone: Open University *Enoch Powell's Performance (T)* (22910)
1.00 The Newtonians (T) (356531) 2.00 Otoman Supremacy (73281) 3.00 Windrush (85282) 4.00 World Cup French (29842) 5.00 Business and Training (4929465) 5.45 Open University (24610)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (8403983)
9.25 This Morning (T) (4408790)
9.30 Vanessa (T) (1864728)
10.10 This Morning (T) (34713544)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (2180322)
12.30 News (T) and weather (69070)
1.00 WALES: Animal Country (17780) 1.00 Oliver's Walk (17780) 1.30 Home and Away (T) (86341) 2.00 Jerry Springer (T) (2137761) 2.45 WALES: House to House (354896) 2.45 Sleeping the World (354896) 3.15 News (T) (883039)
3.20 Regional News (T) (1876212)
3.25 Tots TV (T) (1882325) 3.35 Caribou Kitchen (7279341) 3.45 Bimble's Bucket (T) (7288877) 4.00 House of Toons (8541932) 4.20 Finders Keepers (T) (8323072) 4.50 The Big Bang (T) (7185780)
5.10 WALES: People and Pets (5867525)
5.10 Moneyspinners (5867525)
5.40 News (T) and weather (514586)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (859070)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (628051)
6.25 HTV Weather (557235)
6.30 The West Tonight (235)
7.00 Wheel of Fortune (T) (1457)
7.30 Coronation Street (T) (419)
8.00 House of Horrors: Suburban Cowboys (1/3) Exposing rogue tradesmen and dodgy builders (T) (8777)
8.30 Animal Rescuers The work of a team of RSPCA inspectors from Britain's newest Animal Rescue Centre (T) (9612)
9.00 [CHOICE] Far from the Madding Crowd Dramatisation of Thomas Hardy's classic romantic novel (T) (5525)
10.00 News (T) and weather (41186)
10.30 Regional News (T) (790815)

New friends Duncan, Godley, Owen, Vickerage (10.40pm)

10.40 [CHOICE] WALES: Get Real Comedy drama about a group of people trying to cope with the trauma of a single life (T) (650457)
10.40 West of England Business Awards 98
11.10 WALES: A World of Music Austria (805761)
11.10 Carrying the Swing (805761)
12.10am WALES: Tales from the Crypt (123277)
12.10am Get Real See 10.40 WALES above for details (129377)
12.45 Highlander (8643194) 1.40 Highway Patrol (3247741) 2.05 World Football (T) (378620) 2.35 Club@vision (T) (1524113) 3.10 Vanessa (T) (9124115) 3.45 House of Horrors (T) (40484) 4.15 Judge Judy (T) (8978922) 4.40 Nightvision (T) (6945755) 5.00 Coronation Street (T) (20113) 5.30 News (45303)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
1.00pm A Country Practice (17780)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5751612)
2.45-3.15 High Road (345998)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5987525)
6.25-7.00 Central News (829051)
10.40 Get Real (650457)
11.10 The Drew Carey Show (120032)
11.40 Baywatch Nights (829631)
3.15am Vanessa (2039378)
3.50 Central Jobfinder '98 (2178543)
5.20 Asian Eye (879533)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (2180322)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (4485188)
1.00 High Road (17780)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5751612)
2.45-3.15 Gardeners' Diary (354896)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5987525)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (44761)
10.30 Westcountry News (781167)
10.45 The View from Here (300863)
11.45 Watching Louise (396167)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.30 News and Weather (2180322)
1.00-1.30 Shortland Street (17780)
2.45 At Home with Maggie Philbin (354896)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5987525)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (963)
6.30-7.00 Wildlife Rescue (235)
10.40 The Pier (637506)
11.05 The Listings (677526)
11.10 The Bottom Line (120032)
11.40 Meridian Masterclass (829631)
5.00am FreeScreen (20113)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (4489902)
1.00-1.30 Hope and Gloria (17780)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5987525)
6.23 Anglia Weather (589894)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (828051)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (941419)
10.40 Get Real (650457)
11.10 The Drew Carey Show (120032)
11.40 Swift Justice (829631)

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (12235)
9.00 FILL: Tin Pan Alley (7904109) 10.45 *Love's Lost Hour* (1847761) 11.00 *Baby Baby* (7612) 11.30 *On the Road to the Islands* (8341) 12.00pm *Baywatch Nights* (829631) 12.30 *Sesame Street* (67612) 1.00 *Slot Methrin* (45483254) 1.15 *Ding Dong* (45488708) 1.30 *No Comment* (65983) 2.00 *Hampton Court Flower Show* (21001) 3.00 *Real Gardens* (7490) 3.30 *Watercolour Challenge* (341) 4.00 *Fifteen-to-One* (148) 4.30 *Countdown* (T) (9474400) 4.55 *Montal Williams: My Spouse is a Cheapskate* (T) (5951893) 5.30 *Pet Rescue* (T) (812)
6.00 *Boy Meets World* (T) (525)
6.30 *Hollyoaks* (T) (877)
7.00 *Channel 4 News (T)* (938235)
7.55 *Talent School* Female students talk about their unusual studies. Beginning with a sculpture park (452761)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (T) (35761)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (T) (12235)
9.00 Tin Pan Alley (1940, b/w) Musical with Jack Oakie, John Payne, Alice Faye and Betty Grable. Directed by Walter Lang (T) (79041099)
10.45 *Love's Lost Hour* (1847761) 11.00 *Baby Baby* (T) (7612) 11.30 *On the Road to the Islands* (T) (8341) 12.00 *Sesame Street* (46059) 12.30pm *Light Lunch* with gardeners Monty Don and Rosemary Wiseman. My Spouse is a Cheapskate (T) (5951893)
1.55 *Teletubbies* (T) (1961, b/w) British farce with Bob Monkhouse and Ronnie Stevens. Directed by C.M. Pennington-Richards (T) (84105815)
3.30 *Watercolour Challenge* (341) 4.00 *Fifteen-to-One* (T) (148) 4.30 *Countdown* (T) (9474400) 4.55 *Montal Williams: My Spouse is a Cheapskate* (T) (5951893) 5.30 *Pet Rescue* (T) (812)
6.00 *Boy Meets World* (T) (525)
6.30 *Hollyoaks* (T) (877)
7.00 *Channel 4 News (T)* (938235)
7.55 *Talent School* Female students talk about their unusual studies. Beginning with a sculpture park (452761)

Meridian

6.00 Dorinda and Eric Farquhar in the wide of Scotland (8pm)

8.00 Tastes of Britain (1/8) Dorinda Hailer explores the diversity of British food beginning in Scotland (T) (5419)
8.30 Classic Homes: The Grand House (1/8) John Peel examines the history of domestic dwellings (7254)
9.00 Secret History: Family Secret — In Search of Royal Madness Genetics Martin Warren and David Hunt and historian John Rohl embark on a quest to extract DNA from the remains of Queen Victoria's grandchildren to prove the theory that certain members of the Royal family suffered from porphyria (T) (3167)
10.00 NYPD Blue Simone and Spowick investigate a robbery that resulted in a woman and her son's death (T) (875235)
10.55 Drop the Dead Donkey (T) (814419)
11.30 Bag to Duff (4/6) A mesterclass in bagging (T) (71508)
12.00 Last Days of Chez Nous (1991) with Bruno Ganz, Lisa Harrow and Kerry Fox. The tranquil life of a French expat living with his wife in Sydney is disrupted by the arrival of his sister. Directed by Gillian Armstrong (390216)
1.45am Babyfrenzy 5 (1985282)
2.40 The Beast Courtroom vignette set in the near future. Directed by Charles Montgomery (8854991)
3.00 Reality on the Rocks (T) (95397)
4.00-6.00 Mardi Gras (1958) Quirky musical with Pat Boone and Christine Carere. Directed by Edmund Goulding (T) (34465)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a VideoCirc decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Transponder N 63 on Astra 10.20 63 arc picture; 10.2075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News and Sport (3948963)
7.00 *WideWorld* (T) (1038070) 7.30 *Milkshake!* (9220032) 7.35 *Wiz in the Willows* (T) (4475902) 8.00 *Havakazo* (3145964) 8.30 *Dapplebottom Farm* (T) (3144235)
9.00 *wildlife SOS* (T) (3188815) 9.30 *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (6443325) 10.20 *Sunset Beach* (T) (4326099) 11.10 *Leaza* (6739693)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (3148051) 12.30pm *Family Affairs* (T) (3785506) 1.00 *The Bold and the Beautiful* (T) (1037341) 1.30 *Sons and Daughters* (3784877) 2.00 100 *Per Cent Gold* (574748) 2.30 *Open House* with Gloria Hunniford (889816)
3.30 *Ladies Who Do* (1984, b/w) with Peggy Mount, Robert Morley and Harry H. Corbett. Satire about a cleaning lady who makes a killing on the stock market. C.M. Pennington-Richards directs (3097728)
5.00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show: Obese Daughter's Death* (8055450)
6.00 100 Per Cent (T) (161032)
6.30 *Family Affairs* Nick suggests to Duncan that they sell the boat to help the business (T) (1185612)
7.00 5 News (T) (5741964)
7.30 *The Hot Zone* Documentary about Hall's Gate National Park in Africa (T) (1181896)
8.00 *Hot Property* Sandy Mitchell helps two naturalists to find their dream home (T) (5730612)

VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes

The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programmes; just enter the VIDEO Plus+ code for the relevant programme(s) into your video recorder for easy taping.

For more details call VIDEO Plus+ on 0640 750710. Calls charged at 25p per minute plus 18p p.m. VOD Plus+ is a registered trademark of Genstar Distribution Corporation © 1998

For further listings see Saturday's Vision SATURDAY 1

7.00am *Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters* from Beverly Hills (1987) 7.30 *Games World* (141322) 7.45 *The Simpsons* (80051) 8.15 *Opera* (8028438) 9.00 *Hall's Gate* (1351) 10.00 *Anna Karenina* (1935) 11.00 *Dear Dad* (1987) 12.00 *Murphy's Law* (1989) 12.30pm *Man and Boy* (1987) 12.45 *Man and Boy* (1987) 1.00 *Man and Boy* (1987) 1.15 *Man and Boy* (1987) 1.30 *Man and Boy* (1987) 1.45 *Man and Boy* (1987) 2.00 *Man and Boy* (1987) 2.15 *Man and Boy* (1987) 2.30 *Man and Boy* (1987) 2.45 *Man and Boy* (1987) 3.00 *Man and Boy* (1987) 3.15 *Man and Boy* (1987) 3.30 *Man and Boy* (1987) 3.45 *Man and Boy* (1987) 4.00 *Man and Boy* (1987) 4.15 *Man and Boy* (1987) 4.30 *Man and Boy* (1987) 4.45 *Man and Boy* (1987) 5.00 *Man and Boy* (1987) 5.15 *Man and Boy* (1987) 5.30 *Man and Boy* (1987) 5.45 *Man and Boy* (1987) 6.00 *Man and Boy* (1987) 6.15 *Man and Boy* (1987) 6.30 *Man and Boy* (1987) 6.45 *Man and Boy* (1987) 7.00 *Man and Boy* (1987) 7.15 *Man and Boy* (1987) 7.30 *Man and 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Show of Courage pays off at Scottish & Newcastle

BUSINESS

Turbulence for Hong Kong's flight of fancy

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY JULY 6 1998

City divided over rise in interest rates

By JANET BUSH AND RICHARD MILES

THE City is deeply divided over whether the Bank of England will raise interest rates again this week, as a series of surveys published today shows that business confidence is at its lowest level since the last recession.

Many analysts are convinced the Monetary Policy Committee will lift base rates by a further quarter point for the second month running when it meets on Wednesday and Thursday. Last month, the MPC shocked the markets by increasing the rate from 7.25 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

Salomon Smith Barney is among several City institutions that believe the MPC may even increase rates twice — this week and in August — in response to a set of worrying headline figures for the growth in average earnings and retail prices. Economists at Paribas also said the MPC should lift base rates by a quarter point.

Others argue that no increase is needed, given the recent flurry of data indicating that the UK economy is slowing down and may even be on the brink of a recession. On the output side of the equation, growth appears to be lagging, but the debate is whether it is decelerating enough to persuade the MPC to stay its hand on interest rates.

However, both strands of the economic picture are not unambiguous. Retail prices were arguably inflated by special factors and earnings growth has been exaggerated by bonus payments.

Nobody is certain how important these factors are and what are the true underlying trends.

Industry is clearly opposed to another increase. A report published today by Lloyds TSB shows that business confidence has slipped to its lowest level since the last recession.

The Lloyds Bank Commercial Services Business in Britain survey, which has tracked 2,000 companies since December 1992, concluded that the economic slowdown is gathering momentum and has filtered into the service sector. The survey also predicted that sales and order growth would slow further over the rest of this year.

Michael Riding, Lloyds Bank's managing director of commercial banking, said: "Although evidence of a slowdown is not yet apparent in some official statistics, businesses are downbeat."

"Since January, the decline in order-book growth, largely attributable to sterling's strength, has even affected the service sector, which relies

greatly on orders from exporting firms."

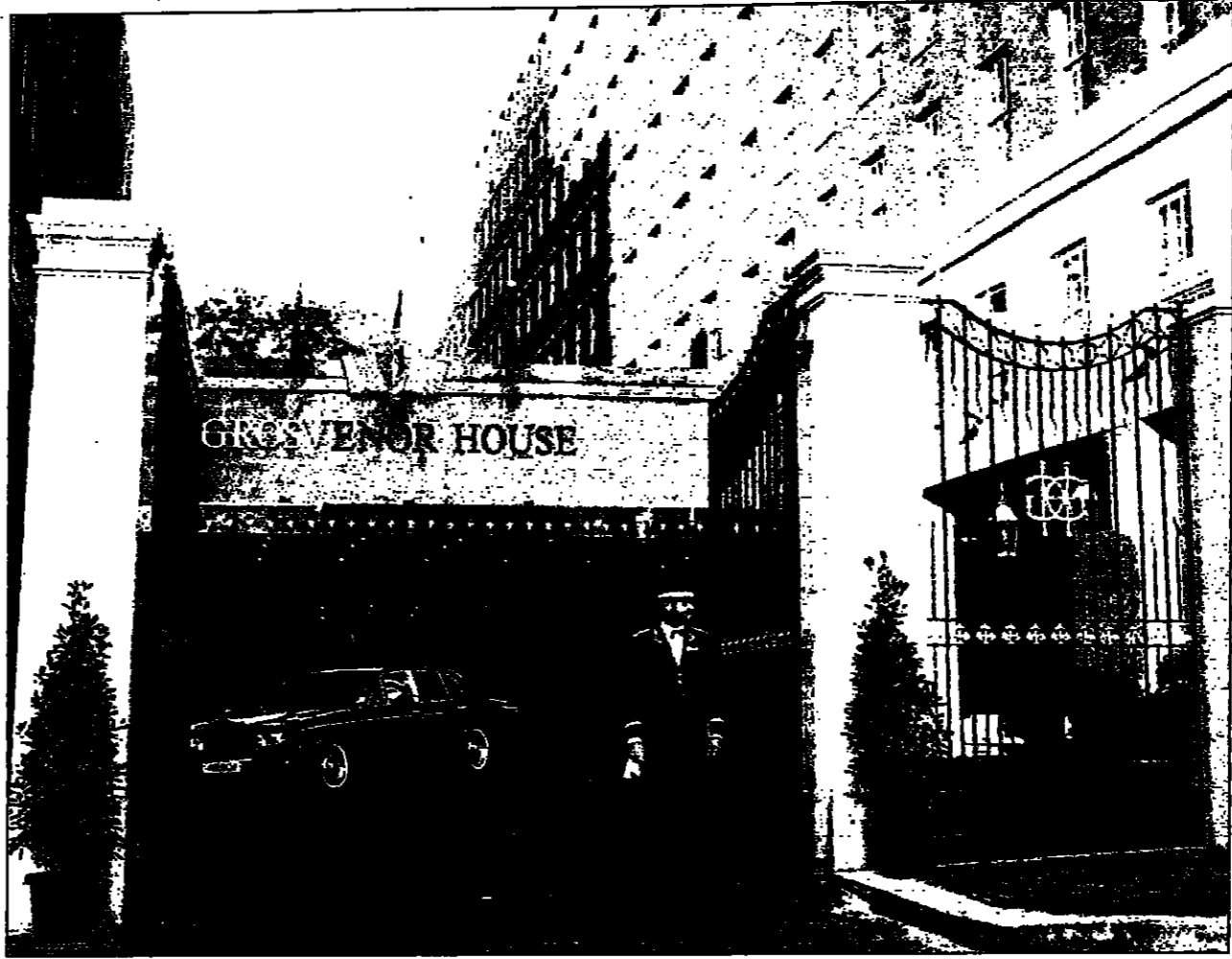
His sentiments were echoed by Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General of the Institute of Directors, who claimed yesterday that businessmen were becoming "increasingly depressed" in the face of the financial crisis in South-East Asia and successive rises in interest rates.

Appealing for the Government to recognise "recessionary pressures" which could force a downturn in the UK economy, he gave warning against a further rise in interest rates. "The degree of the fall in optimism about the state of the economy generally is quite marked," he said.

In another report today, the Centre for Economics and Business Research says the UK economy is close to stagnation, a period of stagnant growth and high inflation. A third survey by the London Chamber of Commerce forecasts similar gloom, revealing that the service sector exports have fallen to their lowest level since 1991.

Dixons Group, the electrical retailer, is expected to report a 12 per cent fall in current underlying sales when it reports annual results on Wednesday.

Roger Bootle, page 44



London's Grosvenor House hotel, which is the third one in the capital to be rebadged under the Méridien name

Granada rebrands Grosvenor

By DOMINIC WALSH

GRANADA, the media and hospitality group, is to rebrand the five-star Grosvenor House in London as a Méridien Hotel after failing to find a buyer.

The 453-room hotel, originally put up for sale in 1996 as part of the Forte Exclusive sell-off, is to be rebadged as The Grosvenor House, a Méridien Hotel, becoming the third

Méridien in the capital alongside the Waldorf and Le Méridien Piccadilly.

David Walker, the hotel's general manager, said: "This decision sends out a strong message that we are an important and valued part of the Forte hotel portfolio."

However, Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, made clear at the group's results that he would sell the hotel if the right offer was made. Having

hoped to get £375 million for the property, he admitted he would consider an offer "with a three in front of it".

The Grosvenor House is one of eight Exclusive hotels that have now been rebadged as Méridien after failing to attract buyers. They include the Ritz in Madrid and the King Edward in Toronto.

Some observers believe that Granada may be beefing up Méridien with its unsold

Exclusives with a view to selling the entire group.

Elsewhere, Granada is expected to announce the sale of three four-star Forte hotels — the Cavendish, the Russell, and the Saint-George's — for £144 million. The buyer, a US real estate group, is expected to sign up a UK operator to manage the hotels. The three hotels were put up for sale earlier this year with a £150 million price tag.

Brussels ready to set terms for BA's alliance

By JON ASHWORTH

REGULATORS in Brussels are set to end an agonising two-year wait for British Airways this week when they finally announce the terms on which they are willing to approve the alliance between BA and American Airlines.

Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, is expected to deliver his verdict on Wednesday.

Mr Van Miert is likely to tell the airlines that they must relinquish 220 weekly take-off and landing slots at Heathrow. This compares with the 350 slots originally demanded by the EU and the 196 slots put forward by the airlines when the alliance was announced.

There is also the threat of a "carve out" of routes on which the carriers are dominant.

BA and American control more than 40 per cent of weekly take-off and landing slots at Heathrow, and command 60 per cent of traffic between America and the UK.

BA and American have threatened to walk away from the alliance if the price is deemed too high, but still intend to pursue some sort of co-operation under a looser arrangement. This would include a pooling of frequent flyer benefits and a co-ordinating of flights.

JAL of Japan and Cathay Pacific have been tipped as possible members of the alliance that will compete with the rival Star grouping, fronted by Lufthansa and United Airlines.

The alliance must also be approved in Britain by the Department of Trade and Industry, which has been working with Mr Van Miert's team in Brussels.

Regulators in Washington are independently reviewing the alliance.

The UK and US governments have yet to agree on an open skies treaty aimed at freeing Heathrow to new US carriers.

BA and American say opening Heathrow will fuel competition, benefiting consumers with lower air fares. However, competitors say BA-American's sheer strength will lead inevitably to higher fares and poorer standards of service.

Shell in talks to create top petrol station chain

By ADAM JONES

SHELL and Texaco are believed to be in talks that could lead to the creation of the largest petrol retail chain in the UK. A deal — through a joint venture or a buyout by Shell — would overtake Esso in the top spot, and would probably lead to thousands of job losses.

Shell yesterday refused to

confirm or deny that it has been in talks with its US rival for several months. But negotiations are advanced, with Shell reportedly calling in surveyors to assess the value of the Texaco assets.

A Shell spokesman said: "We don't comment on market speculation or rumours." A Texaco spokesman also refused to discuss the specific

suggestion of a link with Shell's refining and marketing activities.

However, the Texaco spokesman said: "We are always looking at opportunities to generate additional value for our shareholders."

Shell is currently the third-largest petrol retailer in the UK, with about 16 per cent of the market, and Texaco is in fourth place.

Petrol retailing in this country has been transformed by the entry of supermarkets

such as Tesco into the market and by the joint venture between Mobil and BP, which created the second-largest chain in the UK two years ago.

The Texaco petrol station sites had been seen as a possible target for aggressive expansion by Tesco, as long ago as 1994. The deal between Mobil and BP was a cost-cutting exercise, with the petrol stations joined mainly under the BP brand, but it was also created with the goal of greater expansion in Eastern Europe.

Shell, which announced last week that it is looking to spend £18 million on improving its corporate image around the world, has declared that it wants to be number one or number two in all the markets it operates in, which suggests that it is not happy with the third place it currently occupies in the UK petrol retailing market.

In Austria, it has signed a petrol stations joint venture agreement with Avanti, an Austrian firm, and the UK oil

group is thought to be hungry for more deals.

Any deal between Shell and Texaco would raise anxiety about the fate of small, independent petrol stations, whose numbers have been ravaged by the price war between oil companies and supermarkets.

The likelihood of a deal between Shell and Texaco taking place will have been increased by Shell's decision to close Shell Haven refinery in Essex and shift its investment focus to the Stanlow

refinery in Ellesmere Port on Merseyside.

Oil refinery suffers from overcapacity in the UK, producing 12 million tonnes of petrol and diesel more than is needed, and the Shell Haven closure would reduce the cuts needed to make a merger or joint venture between Shell and Texaco a success.

The closure of Shell Haven, if Shell goes through with the plans, is likely to involve a clean-up bill running into tens of millions of pounds.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1450

ACROSS
 1 Unrepeatable success (5,2,3,3)
 8 Pacific islands; operetta librettist (7)
 9 Bang foot: one on letter (5)
 10 Sailor: an organic distillation (3)
 11 Weigh down awkwardly (8)
 13 A Peeping Tom (6)
 14 Make hostile incursion (6)
 17 Banter (8)
 19 America (abbr.) (3)
 21 Generous (5)
 22 Expression of approval (7)
 24 Keep on to the end (4,3,6)

DOWN
 1 Fleeting; runaway (8)
 2 (Body) oversensitive reaction (7)
 3 Weeding tool (3)
 4 Observe; placard (6)
 5 Payment to keep quiet (4,5)
 6 Dish; Arg/Uruguay River (5)
 7 Back of neck (4)
 11 In effusive high spirits (9)
 12 Witty exchange (8)
 15 (Wrench) apart (7)
 16 Tear-jerker (6)
 18 First-class mark (5)
 20 Way through mountains; a permit (4)
 23 In the past (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1449
 ACROSS: 1 Visit 4 Purlion 8 Save one's bacon 9 Agnus Dei 10 Spry 12 Sahara 13 Caster(ort) 16 Bier 17 Cannibal 20 Saviour 21 Brute 22 Tenor 23 Soluble
 DOWN: 1 Vassals 2 Seventh heaven 3 Trousers 4 Peeved 5 Ruby 6 Oospit 7 Nanny 11 Hannibal 14 Relieve 15 Walrus 16 Beset 18 Blurb 19 Boar

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AT&T faces \$1.75bn fee if deal collapses

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AT&T will have to pay TCI, its \$44 billion (£27 billion) merger partner, a break-up fee of \$1.75 billion if it cannot convince shareholders of the merits of the deal, according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

Wall Street has strong reservations about the extra investments of \$5 billion AT&T will have to make to connect its phone network to TCI's television cables.

AT&T shares have fallen 16 per cent since the merger was announced. Earnings will be hit for at least three years as a result of the additional investments.

The break-up clause will be triggered if AT&T shareholders reject the deal or if regulators object to it based on actions taken subsequent to the merger agreement.

AT&T is effectively barred from making other acquisitions



Malone: negotiated deal

if these deals trigger monopoly concerns. The phone group has repeatedly been linked with BT and rival US phone companies.

The break-up clause also applies to TCI but its shareholders are much less likely to reject the deal. Before the AT&T share price started to slide they were offered a 31 per cent premium. John Malone, the TCI chairman who negotiated the deal, controls almost 50 per cent of the shares.

The break-up clause locks both sides into the transaction that can only be terminated by mutual consent. If AT&T's shares continue to fall there is nothing TCI can do. Its shareholders have to accept the lower premium in the share swap, or pay a one-off \$1.75 billion charge.

Tom Burnett of Merger Insight, a Wall Street research company, said: "This is basically saying that, regardless of the market price, the boards are committed to getting the shareholders to approve the transaction."

The merger will give AT&T, primarily a long-distance carrier, access to America's \$100 billion local phone market.

Colt's growth set to continue with Racial Telecom alliance

By MARTIN BARROW

THE extraordinary rise of shares in Colt Telecom is set to continue today when the company announces it has forged an alliance with Racial Telecom.

The agreement would unite Racial's national fibre-optic network with Colt's existing operations in London, which run from Canary Wharf to the City and the West End. It would also give Racial Telecom a foothold in Europe, where Colt has operations in Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich and Paris.

The alliance will increase the

likelihood that Racial Telecom will be floated by Racial Electronics, its parent, some time next year.

It may also help allay the concerns of some City analysts who are troubled by the meteoric rise of Colt shares in the past year. The shares will open at £27.25 this morning, compared with just 30p only one year ago.

The company, which was floated in 1997, is valued at £3.27 billion and is on the verge of entering the FTSE 100

list. But it has yet to make a profit, having notched up losses of £32 million in 1997, and is not likely to trade in the black until 2002. Colt took advantage of its high rating to raise £200 million through an equity offering and debt placing in November.

By contrast, investors in Ionica Group, Colt's wireless rival that has also yet to make a profit, have seen their shares fall from a 42p flotation price to a low of 24p. On Friday they closed at 40p.

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